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Swedish American Genealogist

*A journal devoted to Swedish American
biography, genealogy, and personal history*



Swedish American Genealogist



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Swedish American Genealogist

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Cover picture:

The burning ship *S/S Austria*.

Picture from the *Sjöhistoriska Museet* (Maritime Museum) in Stockholm, Sweden.

A disaster at sea in 1858

This fearful accident has been forgotten, but has now been found again in a family history

BY INGE SJÖGREN

TRANSLATION: ELISABETH THORSELL

S/S Austria was a steamship of the Hamburg America Line which sank on 13 September 1858, in one of the worst transatlantic maritime disasters of the nineteenth century, claiming the lives of 449 passengers and crew.

The *Austria* was built by Caird & Co. of Greenock, Scotland, and was launched on 23 June 1857. She was 318 ft and 2,684 BRT, with three masts and single screw propeller propulsion.

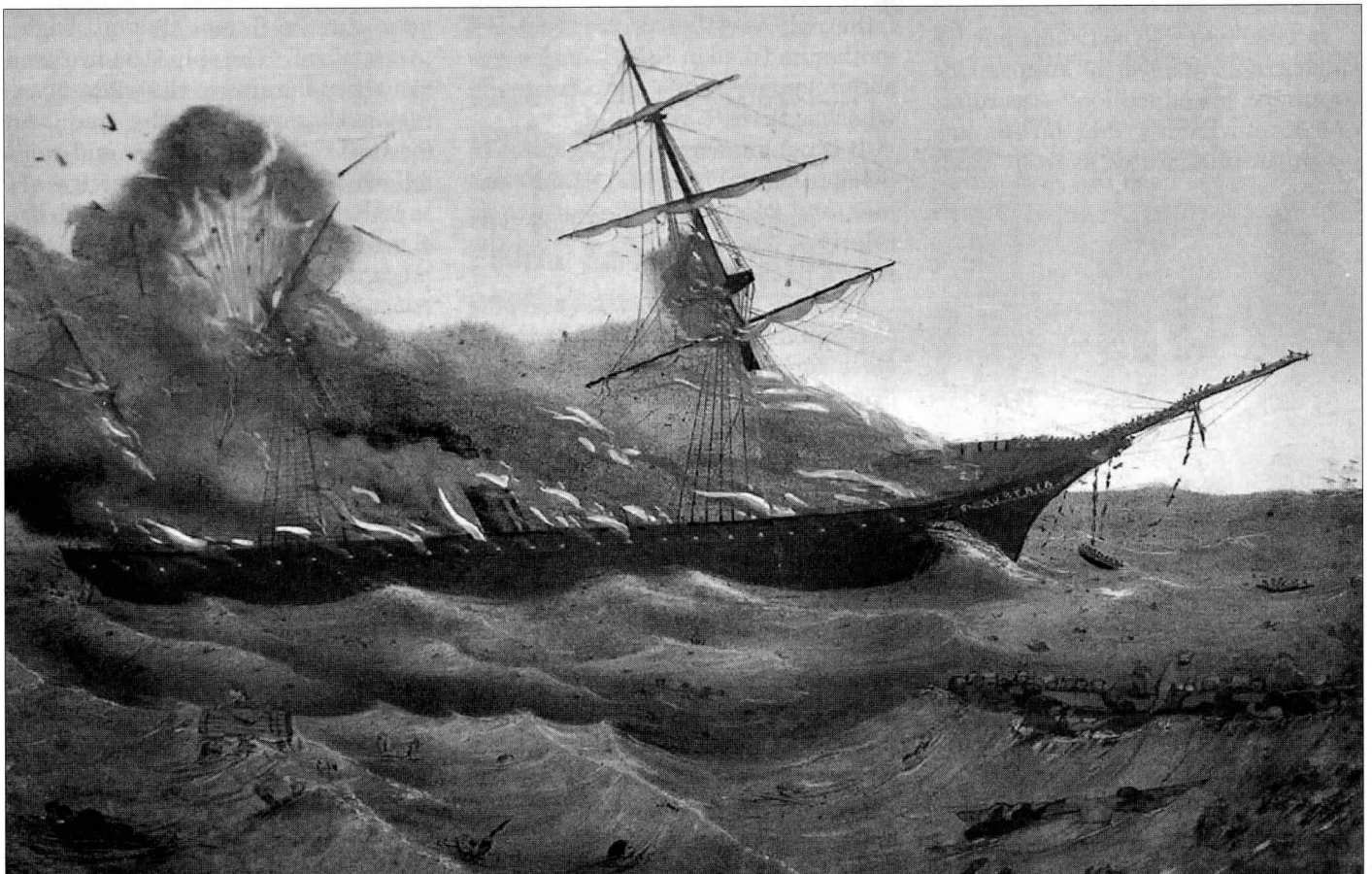
After a cancelled British government charter, she went into service with the Hamburg America Line on 1 May 1858 on the Hamburg-New York route.

On 1 September 1858, *S/S Austria* captained by F. A. Heydtmann sailed from Hamburg on her third voyage to New York City. There were 60 passengers in 1st class, 120 in 2nd class, and 450 in steerage, and a crew of 80.

At approximately noon, on 13 Sep-

tember, a decision was made to fumigate steerage by dipping a red-hot chain into a bucket of tar; the chain became too hot for the boatswain to hold, and it was dropped onto the deck, which immediately burst into flames; although the ship was traveling at only half speed it was impossible to stop the engines as the engine crew had become asphyxiated.

When the helmsman abandoned the wheel, the ship swung into the



The Austria was engulfed in flames almost immediately.

wind, spreading the flames down the length of the ship, racing through the mahogany veneer and varnished bulkheads, as passengers jumped into the sea.

The passing barque, *Maurice* of France, rescued most of the survivors, and the *Catarina* of Norway picked up more the next morning. As the blackened hulk was left to sink, all but 65 of 538 passengers were lost.

The Swedish connection

As the *Austria* started out from Hamburg in Germany it might not have been supposed to have had any Swedes on board, but so was not the case.

Family historian Inge Sjögren of Kalmar, Sweden, was tracing his great-great-grandfather (*farmor's morfar*) Theodor Rosén's family in Kalmar, when he found that Theodor had had a brother who went to America. This brother was Carl Folke Rosén, born 1812 Sep. 12 in Kalmar *Stadsförsamling*, son of the merchant Folke Rosén and his wife Anna Christina Swarss.

In 1830 Sep. 27 Carl Folke left for Karlskrona, where he supposedly continued his education.² According to a Rosén Family Tree on Ancestry.com, he immigrated in about 1838,



A daguerreotype of Charles Rosene, wife Eliza, sons Charles and August, maybe in 1849, and sent to the Swedish family. (Inge Sjögren collection).

Transport Verzeichniss									
der Personen, welche mit dem Schiffe <i>Austria</i> Captain <i>Th. J. J. J.</i> nach <i>New York</i> zur Auswanderung durch Unterzeichneten engagirt sind.									
Nr.	Zu- und Vorname und Familie.	Geburts- und Wohnort.	Landes.	Gewerbe.	Alter	Ges- schlecht		Total	Reception
						schlecht	schlecht		
1	Charles Rosene	Sweden	Sweden	Teacher	26	Male	1	1	
2	Charles F. Rosene	Sweden	Sweden	Teacher	15	Male	1	1	
3	August W. Rosene	Sweden	Sweden	Teacher	15	Male	1	1	
4	Theodore Oscar Rosene	Sweden	Sweden	Teacher	15	Male	1	1	

Charles Rosene (Rosén) and his son in the Hamburg passenger lists (Ancestry.com. Hamburg passenger lists, Direkt Band 012, 1858 Mar-Nov, page 279).

at age 26 to America. In America he settled in Richmond, VA, and became a well-known music teacher there. He married Eliza Frances Tower, born 1816 in Massachusetts, and they had three children, Charles Folke (Falk) (b. 1843), August W. (b. 1847), and Theodore Oscar (b. 1850).

In 1858 Carl (who was by then Americanized to Charles) decided to go home to Sweden and visit his old father, who was then 80 years old. His mother had died in 1850. Charles was accompanied by his son Charles F, who was then 15 years old.

It is not known when they came to Sweden, possibly in the early summer, and spent the time with their relatives. And then they started the return to the U.S.

On 1858 Sept. 1 they left the port of Hamburg on the *S/S Austria* for New York, in the company of hundreds of other travellers. On Sept. 4 the ship picked up more passengers in Southampton, England.³

What happened next will be told by Charles Rosene, Jr.

Statement of Charles F. V. Rosene Newark Daily Advertiser⁴

Charles F. V. Rosene, Jr., of Richmond, Va., aged 15 years, was a passenger on board the *Austria* with his father, who had been on a visit to his aged parent in Sweden. They left New York in June by the *Ariel*, for Bremen. After their visit they returned to

Hamburg and took the steamer *Austria* on the 1st inst. Charles mentions the name of a Mr. Lingstein, of California, who was a passenger in the second cabin. On the day of the burning he was sitting abaft the engine with his father. He first saw the fire coming up through the ventilators, from which the wind-sails had been taken only a short time before. Instantly as the passengers saw the flames they all began to cry, "Fire!" "The ship is on fire" and ran about the ship in the wildest confusion. He says: "My father and I ran forward to escape the fire and were followed by the other passengers. I saw the fire pouring out through the sky-lights. In ten or fifteen minutes more the cry ran fore and aft, "To the boats!" All hands then crowded into the boats, which had been hanging inboard, but were now swung out by the davits. The first mate mounted the rail near the forward boat on the port side, in which they were sitting with a large crowd of other passengers. He ordered all of us to get out of the boat, so that it could be lowered. But as fast as one set got out others rushed into their places, and we also went back to our first seat. The first mate then took a sailor's knife and cut the tackle, and the boat fell into the water. Falling some twenty-five feet the boat filled and sunk, and all the people were washed out. I came up under the bottom of the boat, but I found my way out and clambered into the boat.

There were five or six oars lashed together, and they floated out. My father came up within reach of these, and seized hold of them with five or six others. He saw me in the boat, and called out to me, "Oh, my boy, we are all lost!" In a short time one end of the oar drifted near the boat and I caught hold of it, to haul him in. I also asked a passenger near to assist me to save my father. We pulled together, but there were so many clinging to the oars we could not move them. The gentleman said "It is no use, we cannot move them." He then drifted along near us, still clinging to the oars. In this way he held on for nearly four hours.

I could not bear to look at him, and we drifted in silence. There was nothing in the boat to throw to him. During this time the boat rolled over several times, and many were drowned each time. I was so exhausted I could not get into the boat. I asked one of the passengers to assist me, and he kindly drew me into the boat. We drifted between two and three miles astern of the steamer, and could only see the flames rising above the deck. There was no conversation, except an occasional request by the first mate that the passengers would sit still, so as to not capsize the boat. My father by this time had drifted so near the boat, that he caught hold of the stern. I was at the bow and could not reach him. Mr. John F. Cox said, "Charley, your father has hold of the stern of the boat, and can get in." I said, "Oh! I am so glad that he is safe." But he was so exhausted that he held on only about five minutes, and then sunk. Just before he let go he said to Mr. Cox, "If my boy is safe, I am satisfied."

We saw a man some three hundred yards off swimming with a large tin life-buoy, which could be used to bail out the boat. We told him to swim to us and we would take him in. He came towards us, and was received into the boat. He had been swimming about four hours, and was greatly fatigued. It was now after sunset. His name was Hogquist.

The first mate borrowed a knife from a passenger and succeeded

cutting the buoy in two. This made two good bailers. The mate then told us if we wished to be saved, we must now all get overboard except the young woman and let two persons remain in and bail out the boat. We obeyed the order, and all got overboard. In a few minutes the boat was freed of water, and we all got in, observing great caution, so as not to upset her again. The mate then took the steering oar, and with the four others we soon pulled up to the French bark *Maurice*. As the passengers stepped over the rail they all embraced the captain, and all of them shed tears of gratitude for their deliverance. The captain received us all with great kindness. He rigged an awning amidships, and laid a platform for us to lay down upon, giving us all the loose sails he could raise as bedding. We all lay down in our wet clothing, but too much chilled to sleep. The young lady who was saved in our boat was taken into the cabin and her wounds dressed. The captain remained up through the whole night, attending to the wounded, assisted by Jean Polekrusky.

Later from the rescued passengers Serious complaints against the captain and officers Fearful particulars of the conflagration

(From the *New York Post*).⁵

The rescued passengers arrived too late to enable us to publish their full statements today. They all seem to be imbued with a sense of horror in remembering the terrible sufferings and dangers they have passed. They say they can add little or nothing to the full and accurate reports which have already been published, which would be calculated to throw light on the horrible disaster.

All concur in stating that there was gross mismanagement in those who had charge of the steamer. The captain, from the first, gave up in despair, and the helmsman abandoned the wheel.

Every one seemed to seek only his

personal safety. The fire was at first so small that it might have been covered with a man's hat, but for some reason it suddenly spread throughout the lower part of the ship, which was instantly filled with dense, suffocating smoke.

Many were unable to leave their rooms at all. One man was seen with his head thrust through a port hole, unable to get further, while the sheets of fire ran bursting over all parts of the ship, all around him.

The first, second, and third officers are said to have been saved; all the others perished.

Several men were hauled up out of the second cabin and reported that many then were already smothered.

Before the survivors left, they think, that all who were below deck must have expired. The heat was from the first intense.

The flames spread like lightning, overtaking those who tried to escape. Those who took refuge in the chains, as many as could gain a foothold, were soon driven off by the heat. The communication between the fore and aft was cut off entirely within five minutes from the time the fire broke out.

The survivors have very faint hopes as to any more having been saved than has been reported. They say all that could be found were taken off by their ship.

Statement of Henry A. Smith

Henry A. Smith, of Chelsea, Massachusetts, thus told his story: I got on the third boat, as it was cut down from the davits. It fell twenty-five feet and was swamped. In that fall ten or twelve people were drowned, and then the boat capsized at the same time, and, in the endeavor to right her, ten more were drowned. At last she righted, and I got in with twenty-three others, and after being twenty-five hours in the boat we were picked up by the brig *Maurice*.

Statement of Mr. Rosene

Charles F. V. Rosene, of Richmond, Va., aged 15 says: I was saved in the same boat as Mr. Smith, whose state-

ment you have just got; my father was in the boat at the time she was cut loose from the davits, and he was one of those who fell out of her; he then got the oars and floated on them for a considerable time. Meanwhile I got into the boat with the others, and after much struggling my father got up to her and caught hold of the stern, but being unable to hold on, he immediately sank. I saw him drowned myself, am now without a father.

I was rescued by the brig *Maurice*, but, although I wished to jump out and try to save my father I would not be permitted, and he was lost.

Statement of Mr. Peterson

I was one of the steerage passengers of the *Austria*, and am from Lanseruna, (?) Switzerland.⁶

The fire was discovered about two or three o'clock on the 13th September, in the after part of the steerage. Immediately after the smoke became very dense, and the flames spread up, from the hold, enveloping the ship from stem to stern. We immediately endeavored to save ourselves by means of the boats, of which there were eight; five of these we endeavored to launch from the side, but they were cut adrift and went past the ship. One was swamped and cut in three pieces by the screw, and another, the one I was in, hung by the bow tackle until filled with passengers. Then we cut her loose at the suggestion of the occupants, there being a large number on the tackle who remonstrated against our cutting the rope. If all had got in, the boat would have gone down with the immense weight. We dragged with the steamer at least half an hour before the boat was cut adrift, and then hung on as well as we could. I was on the outside of the boat, and hung on by the gunwales, as I was a good swimmer. I was so much exhausted that I could not have hung on another hour. We were then picked up by the barque *Maurice*; those in the water around us clung to me, and I was in danger of losing my hold several times, but managed to main-

tain it, and assisted some in getting on board the boat, or otherwise helping them to hold to the gunwales.

Three of the boats of the ship were rendered unserviceable, or could not be used, from the fact that the flames prevented them being cut away or launched.

When I was getting into the boat, and before I left the deck, I saw about thirty passengers, I should think, in the hold, trying to get air, by the port lights. These were told by one of the officers of the ship that if they came up they would be smothered by the smoke or burned by the fire. They probably all remained, and were thus burned to death in the hold. If the engines had been stopped soon after the fire broke out, a good many would have been saved who were crushed in the boat by the screw, which was running like a windmill. The chief engineer, Morganstein, went down to shut off the steam from the engine, but was unable to do so from the great heat and smoke coming from the lower deck. Passengers were, all the time I was near the ship, jumping off the stern into the water and getting what assistance they could from the broken boats and floating articles in the water. Two vessels were seen on the starboard beam, one of which came to our assistance, while the other stood on her course. The confusion was very great, and the passengers and crew seemed to have lost all control of themselves, and the latter to be under no discipline from the officers of the steamer.

The Boats

(From the *New York Tribune*).

It has been stated that there were eight Francis's Metallic Lifeboats and several ship's launches on board. This is not true. There were only eight on board in all – which would not, at the outside, accommodate more than half of the people on board. These were hung on davits, four on each side of the ship. The four forward boats were of metal, the other four were clinker-built wooden boats. Two of the boats, those hung on the starboard and port quarters, were painted white.

We have endeavored to ascertain what became of the boats. One of the quarter boats, which the captain and fourth officer attempted to launch, was crushed by the screw, and the inmates drowned or hauled up on board again. A second boat, let down from the starboard side of the ship was likewise swamped by the crowd of people. Mr. Brew escaped in a third boat, which was swamped when he got into it; one of the wooden boats over the midshiprail was burned. Four boats are thus accounted for.

The first officer and some thirty people escaped in the fifth, a metallic boat, and after being capsized several times, by which about ten lives were lost, reached the brig *Maurice* safely. Prof. Glaubenslee, Mr. Vezin, and others saw a sixth boat some miles astern, with six or eight people in her. This boat was supposed to be one of the white boats from the port quarter, *which has not yet been reported as picked up*. Only six boats were launched, as the flames amidships prevented the people from reaching the others. We are informed that these boats were slung from the davits and instead of being secured to the ship's side with a piece of hempen seizing, which could easily be cut when the boats are required to be launched in an emergency like this, they were set in chocks or wooden bearings, from which they had to be lifted before they could be lowered to the water.

The crowd in them, in most instances, prevented this, and hence so many of the boats were lost in getting them into the water. The white boat, described above, may yet be heard from. It is also possible that some of those persons who were still clinging to the vessel at nightfall, when the captain of the *Maurice* desisted from sending his boats, were able to hold on through the night, and were picked up next morning by the Norwegian brig.

It is difficult to understand why the boats of the French brig could not have continued to save people from the burning steamer during the night. The light from the steamer illuminated the sector a long dis-

tance, and the French brig kept her lights burning. The weather was pleasant, the sea calm and unruffled, and a pull of three-quarters of a mile after nightfall, under these circumstances, when there were precious lives to save, would not have deterred a green landsman of ordinary pluck. Why did not Hahn, the mate of the steamer, when he reached the brig, with his sailor-crew in the six-oared life boat, go after them? It is evident from his acts and expressions, as well as his recklessness in casting his boat adrift, that he was afraid to risk his cowardly carcass on such an errand of mercy. The conduct of this man should be rigidly investigated. .

Incidents after arrival of the sufferers

Six of the survivors of the calamity who arrived by the *Prince Albert* yesterday went to the Shakespeare Hotel, corner of Dunne and William streets, where they took dinner and saw some of their friends. Their names are Frederick Thompson, a German, Swen Peterson, Swede, Chas. Hogquist, Swede, Herman Randel, Swede, Chas. F. V. Rosene, American, and John Palicrusca, Austrian. It becoming known outside that some of the survivors were there, many persons crowded in to see them and to interrogate them in regard to the calamity.

One gentleman went from one to another in an excited manner, anxiously inquiring of them if they had seen on the *Austria* the original of a daguerreotype of an elderly lady which he held in his hand; but none had seen her. One of the passengers told him that there were so many faces on board it was impossible for him to recollect whether he had seen that countenance before. There was an expression of anguish in the countenance of the stranger as he left the room.

One of the sufferers who lost everything he possessed by the fire, met an old friend in a saloon in Trayon Row, and he was so affected at the meeting that he embraced and kissed his friend, uttering in tremu-

lous tones, "I am here, but it was God who saved me."

(End of newspaper accounts)

What happened next?

The passengers that were picked up by the French brig *Maurice* were taken to Fayal on the Azores in the Mid-Atlantic. Next they were sent to Halifax on the bark *Lotus*, and then from there to New York by the *Prince Albert*.

Except those already mentioned, these also came on the *Prince Albert*: Philip Berry of Hackensack, NJ; Henry A. Smith of Chelsea, MA; Alfred Vezin of Philadelphia, PA; and professor Theodore Glaubensklee of the Free Academy, NY.

Charles Rosene, Jr.

He went back home to his mother and brothers in Richmond, where he is listed in the 1860 U.S. Census.

Sometime later he moved to New York, and started a successful career as an actor. In the 1870 U.S. Census⁷ he is listed as C. Rosene, and seems to live at some boarding house, with many people from Ireland, Denmark, Germany, and many from New York and other states. He is now 27 years old and established as an actor.

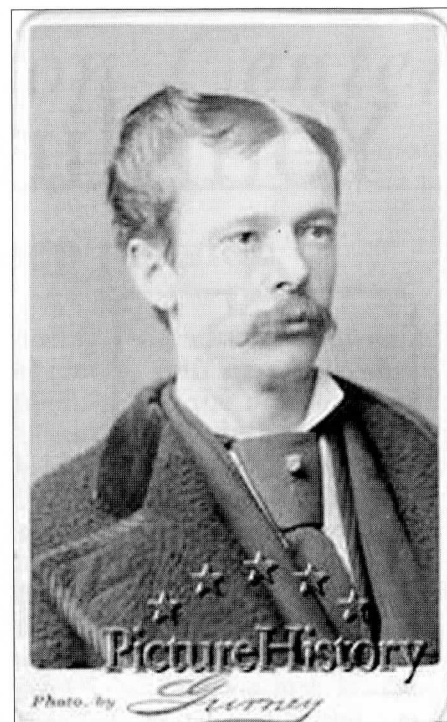
He was first married to Julia Jarvis, who died in 1879.⁸ They had children Frances (b. 1875), Ada (b. 1876), and Charles Morton (b. 1878).

In 1880 Jan. 25 he married in New York⁹ to Augusta Jane Hammond, (b. 1860). They had children Ellen (b. 1881), August (b. 1882), Edward (b. 1889), and Adeline (b. 1893).

By 1900 Charles is listed as being retired, and he died in 1910 in New York.

During 2013 Inge Sjögren made contact with Mrs. Jeri Hawkins, née Rosene, a direct descendant of Charles F. Rosene. Mrs. Hawkins will visit Sweden next summer.

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S-392 32 Kalmar, Sweden
E-mail:
agneta_sjogren@hotmail.com



Charles Falk (Folke) Rosene (1843–1910).

Endnotes:

- 1) Kalmar Stadsförsamling C:7, page 297 (Arkiv Digital).
- 2) Kalmar Stadsförsamling AI:21, page 131 (Arkiv Digital).
- 3) *Shipping News, Boston Post* (Boston, MA) 1858 Sept. 23 (GenealogyBank).
- 4) *Newark Daily Advertiser* (Newark, NJ) 1858 Sept. 30, (GenealogyBank).
- 5) *Albany Evening Journal* (Albany, NY) 1858 Sept. 30, 1858 (GenealogyBank).
- 6) Possibly from Landskrona, Sweden, as he is later described as a Swede [Ed:s note].
- 7) His mother and brothers are still in Richmond, but indexed with last name Rosiri(!).
- 8) Rosene Family Tree (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/39499988/person/19376821038>).
- 9) New York Marriage Indexes 1866–1937 (Ancestry.com).

Internet links to this article are found on p. 30

Your link to your history!



NEW!

The Swedish Census database (*Folk-räkning*) for 1910 has now 2 million individuals. 105 110 posts were just added.



The Digital Research Room

Here you can do research about people and their property, their life, work and taxes.

Contact us at the address below to find out much more!



NEW!

The *Swedish Census of 1990* - the way to find your living cousins.

A DVD with millions of Swedes 20 years ago.



Stockholm Tax Rolls

Mantalslängder and *Kronotaxeringslängder* from 1652 to 1915. Indexes too for some of them.

One of the released prisoners in the SVAR prison records.



www.riksarkivet.se/svar



Riksarkivet

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News from the Swenson Center

Remembering Dr. Scott as a 'man of deep passion'

Dr. Larry Scott, professor *emeritus* of Scandinavian, died Saturday, Nov. 16, 2013.

Described as "bold and brash and brilliant," Dr. Scott is remembered by one of his former students, Meghan Kelly '99 Cooley, as a "melting pot of a man."

"He was able to discuss the details of the Swedish health system or laugh at a bawdy joke, sit at a Viennese coffee house or a local tavern for a brew, said Cooley, who as a student traveled to Vienna in 1998 as part of study abroad program with Dr. Scott. "He was a man of strong opinions and deep passions."

A year after graduation Cooley came back to the college to work in admissions and saw her former professor from a new standpoint. "After traveling months overseas and maintaining a friendship almost 20 years, I knew him to be loyal almost to a fault, sustain a temper to rival any, and harbor a hidden sensitivity. He cared deeply about his students, regardless of major."

Cooley noted that his "laughter and insight will be remembered by many."

Dr. Wendy Hilton-Morrow '94, chair of the department of communication studies and a former Scandinavian studies minor, said, "Dr. Scott was a fierce protector of Augustana's Swedish heritage. He recognized its significance to understanding our institutional identity still today, more than 150 years after our college's founding."

Dr. Scott joined the Augustana faculty in 1981 and retired in 2013. He chaired the Department of Scandinavian and led many successful international study pro-

grams, including the Augustana Summer School in Sweden, based in Grebbestad. In 1996, King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden named him a Knight of the Order of the Polar Star (*Riddare av Nordstjärneorden*).

Larry E. "Lars" Scott was born July 3, 1947, in Oak Park, Ill., a son of William W. and Hilda Melin Scott. He graduated from Lake Park High School. He went on to study at the University of Washington, Seattle, earning a B.A. in Swedish in 1969, an M.A. in Scandinavian languages and literature in 1970, and a Ph.D. in Scandinavian languages and literature in 1973.

Always an outstanding student, he earned many honors. In 1965, he was a National Merit Semi-finalist and state scholarship winner. He graduated *cum laude* from the University of Washington and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. In 1979, he earned a Royal Swedish Embassy Research Grant.

His 1990 book, "The Swedish Texans," was published by the University of Texas Institute of Texan Culture at San Antonio, and is considered the definitive study of Swedish immigrants in Texas.

He was a member of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, the Modern Language Association, the American-Scandinavian Association, the Swedish-American Historical Association, and Phi Beta Kappa. He was a past president of the Augustana Historical Society.

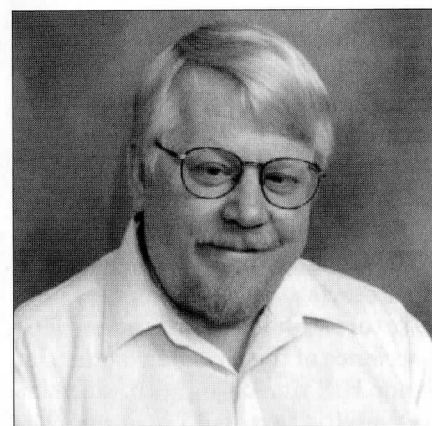
A long-time admirer of the writings of J.R.R. Tolkien, Dr. Scott gathered with students on Sunday evenings to discuss Tolkien's work, and also taught a course about "The Lord of the Rings" and other works.

Dr. Scott led Augustana's annual *Sankta Lucia* celebrations, intro-

ducing generation of Augustana students, staff members, their families, and the broader Quad-Cities community to this and other beloved Scandinavian traditions.

"I smile when I think of the hundreds of students Lars shepherded through the *Sankta Lucia* festival at Augustana over the decades," said Dr. Hilton-Morrow. "He was able to turn even the most reluctant of college men into respectable 'star boys' for the occasion."

Prior to teaching at Augustana, Dr. Scott was an instructor at Edmonds Community College, Edmonds, WA; an acting assistant at the University of California, Los Angeles; an instructor at Pomona College, Claremont, CA; and an assistant professor at the University of Texas at Austin.



Published on the Augustana College web site, *see link on p. 30*, on November 18, 2013.

Swedes on the Mississippi of the 1850's

Some of the early immigrants ventured to the far west

By JOHN E. NORTON

By the mid-1830's unrest between native Americans and new settlers from the east had largely subsided, and immigration into the American "northwest" had begun, not just by eastern "Yankee" settlers, speculators, and veterans claiming bounty land, but even by European immigrants. Sweden was no exception.

The first midwestern Swedish seed communities appeared in the early 1840's in places like Pine Lake, Wisconsin.

In our part of the Midwest, they began in 1845, as immigrant farmer Petter Cassel brought a small group from Kisa in Östergötland to what became the New Sweden settlement near Burlington, Iowa. It, in turn, spawned other communities along the Des Moines River to the north, in places like Swede Bend, now Stratford, Iowa.

The floodgates were opened in 1846-50 by the flight of some 1200 "Erik Janssonist" perfectionists from north-central Sweden, who created what became the "Prairie Utopia" of Bishop Hill in Henry County, Illinois, in 1846.

These settlements brought newspaper stories, letters, and great public interest back in Sweden. The experience of the Erik Janssonists at Bishop Hill also brought the decision of a pietistic Swedish Lutheran clergyman, Lars Paul Esbjörn of Hille (Gäst.), to minister to those Swedes by emigrating. He took leave of his duties in Sweden, and in June 1849 led a party of about 140 from the Gävle area to settle in Andover, Illinois, a speculative Yankee community near Bishop Hill and Moline.

Then, in 1849-51, a remarkable Swedish author, feminist, and keen



Fredrika Bremer (1801-1866). Painting in 1843 by J.O. Södermark.

observer of America, **Fredrika Bremer**, made a U.S. tour, leading to her writing *Homes in the New World*, recommending the Northern Midwest to her countrymen as a possible "new Scandinavia."

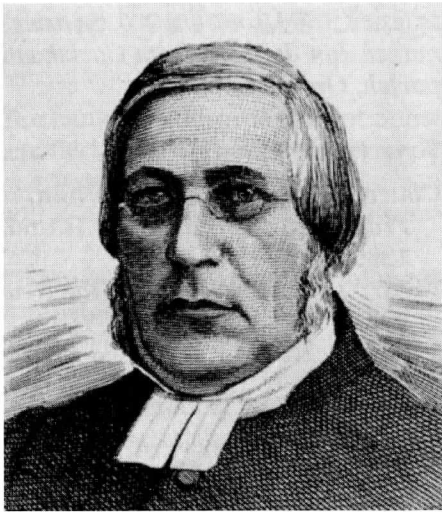
Until the 1854 crossing of the Mississippi by its first railroad bridge between Rock Island and Davenport, rivers had been considered among the safest and most pleasant ways to travel through our region, later encouraged by newspaper accounts of the 1854 "Grand Excursion," promoting the Midwest along the Mississippi as a place to tour, settle, and prosper.

Petter Cassel. The earliest immigrant organizer to our area arranged the group migration of some 20 farmers from Östergötland, Sweden, sailing on the *Superb* from Göteborg in August 1845, and settling in what became New Sweden, Jefferson

County, IA. His letters home were widely published, and even brought the first Swedes to Andover, Illinois, in 1845-46, before the later party led by Rev. Lars Paul Esbjörn in 1849.

Erik Jansson. This remarkable farmer-preacher led the single largest mass migration ever to leave Sweden, using eastern Swedish ports like Gävle and Söderhamn, beginning in late 1845, and continuing through 1850. It involved some 1200 followers seeking religious freedom and economic opportunity. Their letters home, published in regional newspapers, were often critical of Jansson's leadership, but almost universally praised the opportunity of America. Their prairie Utopia of Bishop Hill remains almost unchanged today, and is a National Historic Landmark. Jansson and his followers used the Mississippi to export goods to thriving river communities like St. Louis, and to bring products, and even Durham cattle, from Shaker Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, back to Bishop Hill. They had a fishing camp on what is today Arsenal Island, where Jansson's first wife died of cholera, but which also supplied the colony's Civil War soldiers with occasional salt fish to supplement government rations.

Rev. Lars Paul Esbjörn was moved by the plight of many former Erik Janssonists who had fled the Bishop Hill Colony to settle nearby communities like Victoria, Galesburg and Moline. Finally, in June of 1846 he led his own flock of some 144 emigrants from Hille near Gävle, Sweden, to Illinois. His work at Andover in establishing the first Swedish Lutheran congregation in the Midwest, then others in Galesburg, and



Lars Paul Esbjörn (1808–1870).

Moline, led to what became the Augustana Synod. This is considered the largest and most successful Swedish creation in the New World. It also brought the founding of Augustana College, first in Chicago in 1860, then for a short time in Paxton, IL, and finally in Rock Island in 1875, where it thrives today.

Esbjörn returned to Sweden in 1863 from his leave of absence, but the young clergy trained at August-

ana College and Theological Seminary became the builders of the Augustana Synod, now part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

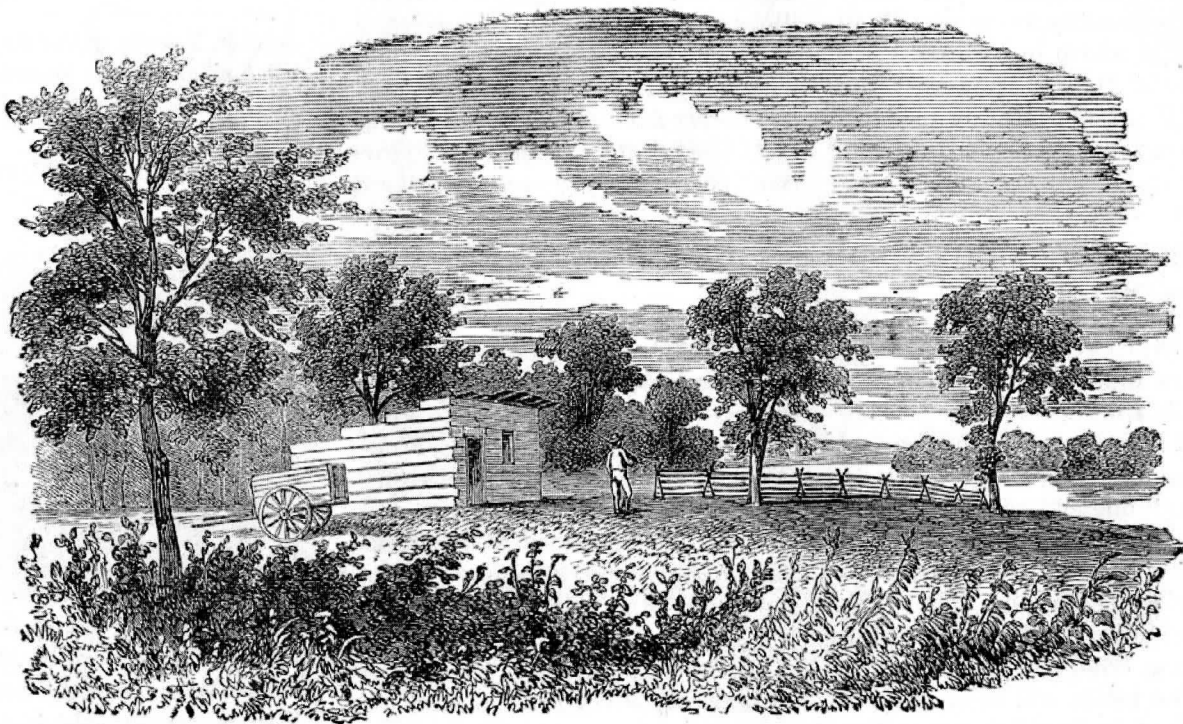
Erik Norelius. One of Esbjörn's discoveries was a 16-year old emigrant of 1850, Erik Norelius, who left with a group of 115 pietistic "Luther Readers" from Gävle, in November, 1850. He came to Andover, then to Moline. At Esbjörn's urging, Erik completed his education at Capitol University in Ohio. After ordination, he headed north on the Mississippi to begin a remarkable career in Minnesota, as both church organizer, founder of the newspaper *Minnesota Posten*, organizer of Gustavus Adolphus College, and historian of the early Swedish Lutheran church in North America. Other members of his immigrant group went north on the river to found immigrant communities near the St. Croix River, later made famous by novelist-historian Vilhelm Moberg in his classic immigrant novels.

Erik Olsson Fors(se). This 34-year-old farmer, born in Malung

parish, Dalarna, and member of the Swedish home guard, emigrated in November of 1850 with his wife and four children from the western city of Göteborg, Sweden, bound first for New Orleans, in a party of 36 immigrants, all hopeful of escaping summer diseases by their late departure. They headed upriver, where Erik was struck by cholera in St. Louis, but survived.

A fellow emigrant, Anders Svensson from Kättilstad (Östg.), also arrived in St. Louis penniless due to a transportation error, and appealed successfully to the famous "Swedish Nightingale" Jenny Lind, who was singing there, for a gift of \$75.00, to complete his family's trip, ending successfully in Chisago, Minnesota.

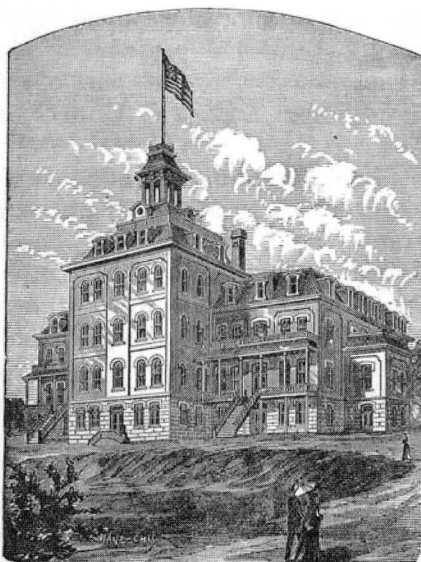
After recovering from cholera, Erik headed for our area, settling first in Galesburg where he worked for a short time as a tailor for \$0.25 per day, then in Moline, and finally to Bishop Hill by 1852. In 1859 he organized the "Swedish Union Guard" at Bishop Hill. The unit later volunteered for Civil War service as D Company, Illinois 57th Volunteer



A settler's first home. (From *Svenskarne i Illinois 1880*, by Eric Johnson and C.F. Peterson).

Infantry, which served with distinction at battles like Shiloh. He resigned his commission as major in October, 1864. He returned to farming in Henry County, then in 1869 he organized a colonization company headed for railroad land in Kansas. He founded the city of Falun, where he continued farming. He later became postmaster of Falun, a county trustee, and was elected state representative in 1873. Following his 1889 death, his old home town newspaper *Tidning för Falu län och stad*, noted that Forsse, in order to fund his immigration, had apparently burned his farm home for insurance, and may also have embezzled Swedish Army funds intended to buy horses!

Erik Pettersson from Herrnäs farm in Bjurtjärn, (Värmland), left Sweden in 1849 with his two brothers and a friend, heading for California's gold fields. Erik, however, stayed in the midwest, working first as a lumberjack on the St. Croix River in northern Wisconsin. Struck by the beauty of the Mississippi River, he registered Wisconsin claims in 1852 and 1853 on Lake Pepin. Erik and brother Anders returned to Sweden to recruit immigrants for their pioneer community, following a small group of 16 which had already left, to winter in Moline. They recruited some 210 persons, sailing in April 1854 for Quebec, then continued by steamer to Detroit and rail to Chi-



Augustana College, Rock Island, IL. in 1880 (From Svenskarne i Illinois 1880, by Eric Johnson and C.F. Peterson).

cago, on what became perhaps the most infamous voyage in Swedish immigrant history. It was immortalized by a song of warning, "We Sold our Homes." Stricken by cholera en route to Chicago, about half of the group died before arriving at Lake Pepin in July of 1854 aboard the steamer *War Eagle*.

That emigrant song, "We sold our homes" is based on letters about their ill-fated migration. It was published in Kristinehamn, Sweden, in 1854, with this introduction, "*Excerpts from two letters from America, describing the unfortunate, deluded, and martyred Swedes who immigrated there*

in April 1854, and written by brick-maker Jan Jansson from Carlskoga parish, Örebro County."

For more reading:

Conrad Bergendoff, *Augustana, a Profession of Faith*, Rock Island, 1969.

Fredrika Bremer, *Homes of the New World, Part II*, New York, 1853.

Fredrika Bremer, *America of the Fifties: Letters of Fredrika Bremer*, New York, 1924.

William E. Connelley, *A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans*, 1918.

Olov Isaksson, *Bishop Hill, A Utopia on the Prairie*, Stockholm, 1969.

Eric Norelius, *The Pioneer Swedish Settlements and Swedish Lutheran Churches in America 1845-1860*, Augustana Historical Society, Rock Island, IL (1984). (Originally published in Swedish 1880).

Stefan Nilsson, ed., *Kultur & Historia, Karlskogaemigrationen* (web edition, in Swedish).

Robert L. Wright, *Swedish Emigrant Ballads*, Lincoln, NE 1965.

John E. Norton, editor *Augustana Historical Society Quarterly*
4015 36th Ave. Ct., Moline, IL 61265,
E-mail: jnorton3614@gmail.com

Swedish genealogy seminars in Lindsborg, KS, during 2014

There will be two Swedish genealogy seminars held in Lindsborg, KS, during 2014, organized by Lorna Nelson and Lenora Lynam of the Old Mill Museum.

The first one will be the weekend of **March 29/30**, and the number of attendees is limited to 30, as there is no more spaces at the Vision Tek computer library, 121 Main Street in Lindsborg, where all classes take place. The topics will be on How to get started in Swedish genealogy, How to do research with Arkiv Digital, a case study of working with

Swedish church records, using Swedish records for your Family History Project, Tips for planning to visit Sweden, Finding ship records, Finding living relatives, and Estate inventories.

The next seminar will be **September 27/28**. The curriculum will be the same as in March, with the addition of a lecture on military records.

Computer stations for all, hands-on learning every session, and assistance from experts.

This looks like a very good learning and networking opportunity. But do



not forget to visit the Old Mill Museum which has many interesting collections and even the McPherson County Archives in the house.

Register soon as the seminars will quickly be filled!

Link on page. 30.

Some tips for searching badly transcribed records in databases

You can use wildcards for last name and first name. "?" can be used for just one letter you do not know. Sw?son will return both Swanson and Swenson.

"*" can be used for up to five unknown characters. Johan* will return Johannes as well as Johanna or Johanne. A "*" can also be used as the first letter, for instance *stina will return Stina, Christina, and Kristina.

Just play with this and see if you get good results.

You need to have at least three wildcard characters in a name when searching.

You can omit first name and search under last name and year of birth or location.

Or search just by last name, if you have a more unusual surname to look for.

Broaden your search by leaving out specific location (start with a city/town then broaden that to a township, then a county, then broaden

even further if necessary to the province)

Search for someone else in the family – a child or a spouse.

Think outside the box - for example an "S" might be mistaken for an "L." So search for "Lally" instead of "Sally." Maybe an "H" was mis-transcribed as an "M" or some other letter so try various combinations.

Don't get stuck on being absolutely positive that Grandpa Sven lived in a specific location. Maybe for that one year he was working and living elsewhere.

If you are searching on Ancestry.com add your correction when you find an incorrect entry! This helps other researchers and descendants.

Last year I was looking for a family named Gumaelius, where the first immigrant was named Otto, and he immigrated in the 1880s, married and had a family. So I started to check the censuses for the 1900s, but did not find them until the 1920 Census,

but they ought to be in the earlier ones too, but where were they?

With some "creative" searching they were found. In 1900 they were listed as "Gurnelius", in 1910 they were the "Gumarlus" and had a daughter Mary, that I had not heard of. With the help of the birth age, she was identified as a son Emory! In 1920 they were called "Gumahn" and in 1940 the "Gumalins." All these posts have now been corrected, so new researchers can easily find them.

Sometimes it can also help to reverse his/her first name and surname, just in case... For instance if you have a Peter Sward (in Sweden probably Per Svård), then try looking for somebody named Sward Peter, when everything else has failed.

Most of these tips come from Olive Tree Genealogy.

See link on p. 30.

Elisabeth Thorsell



Swedish Genealogy

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Handwriting Example 37

Leksand F:20 (1838-1842) Bild 99 (Arkiv Digital)

Death record for the widow Brita Larsdotter, who died 1 Feb. 1840.

En. Brita Larsdotter, ifrån mjølgen. Född i hättlindarne
år 1762 af förf. & afh. föräldrar, fader Lars Hansson
& moderen Anna Matsdotter, som liksom förson hon be-
fandades till Dorset & undervistad i Salighetslä-
ran, ingick hon 1792 äktenskap med Olof Persson
ifrån mjølgen, med hvem hon haft 1 Son & 3
Döttrar. Sonen är före sin moder lidangången
till adödlighetsens land, men Döttrarna efterlev-
na, välförsedda. Hon säges ha varit en god &
nackthaffens vandel, samt ordentl. bevärd den H.
Kattvanden, som skedd på den Ringstugan
förf. år. Efter 14 dagars sjukdom af feulnad
& andtappa, afled hon d. 1 i denna månad, 78 år
gammal. Läst sjukade hon: dödfens skarpe pilor
- o. Herre! lindra väl m. m. samt: dagen hon är ju
allrig så lång vi måtte ju aftonen vänta m. m.

This is from a special kind of death record, that exists mainly in Västerås diocese. They are called "Personalieböcker," and they contain a short biography that the officiating clergyman read at the burial ceremony. They usually contains good details about parents, marriages, number of children, etc. They also tell what a God-fearing person the deceased was during his or her lifetime. It is unusual to find any derogatory remarks, but it does happen.

Translation and transcription on page 24.



About The People's Dictionary

This is a new English-Swedish and Swedish-English dictionary belonging to the people and expanded and improved by us all. Anyone can look up in the People's Dictionary on the web, and this service will always be free.

If you would like to see all information about a word, just click Expand all. Instead of doing this every time you may use the Settings and mark that you would like the lookup results to be expanded automatically. Another setting gives a virtual keyboard with the Swedish letters **å, ä, ö**.

The People's Dictionary is free. Both the whole English-Swedish dictionary and the Swedish-English dictionary can be downloaded for use under the Distributed Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.5 Generic license.

The People's Dictionary is initially based on the Lexin Swedish-English and English-Swedish dictionary, previously published by the Swedish Language Council. The Swedish Language Council still publishes

Lexin but has chosen not to proceed making the Swedish-English Lexin available. As a substitute, Viggo Kann and Joachim Hollman at Algoritmica HB have developed the People's English-Swedish dictionary in two projects supported by .SE, The Internet Infrastructure Foundation.

You can make a contribution to the People's Dictionary by answering translation proposals. When enough people have accepted a proposal, it will be added automatically to the People's Dictionary. You may also suggest how to extend or change the lexicon information, including synonyms, definitions, inflected forms, compositions and examples. Just look up the word and click on the tool sign to the right of the translation. All submitted proposals will both be reviewed automatically and be judged by other users before they are entered into the People's Dictionary.

Furthermore, the lexicon has been extended by two other free resources: the People's Dictionary of synonyms and Saldo, Swedish association lexicon.

The web service is developed in GWT. The graphical elements on the web pages are constructed by Joel Sjöstrand. The translation proposals are mainly developed using automatic language technology methods by Sara Stymne and Lars Ahrenberg, NLPLAB, Department of Computer Science, Linköping University.

The People's Dictionary has its home at Nada, School of Computer Science and Communication, KTH. KTH is operating the service. The contents of the lexicon is owned by the People, not by KTH. The People's English-Swedish Dictionary has no editorial board, and is designed to be self-sustaining. If you nevertheless want to provide feedback on the service you can do that to:

<folkets-lexikon(@)csc.kth.se>, but we do not have the possibility of answering questions. Technically, the People's Dictionary is operated by the systems group, School of Computer Science and Communication, KTH, **<webmaster(@)csc.kth.se>**.

Link on p. 30.



The People's Dictionary

farmor

Successful lookup of farmor

+ farmor noun, grandmother
+ grandma noun (informal), mormor, farmor
+ grandmother noun, mormor, farmor

If you answer the following question you will contribute to a better dictionary!

Is the swedish word **frågeställning** a good translation of the english word **school meals**?

Suggest a better swedish translation of **school meals**:

Anna Lena Slättengren – life of a poor *piga* (1805-1874)

By DAVID ANDERSON

For some reason serendipity has played a part in my search to find out more about my ancestors. One day while scrolling through a microfilm looking for an ancestor from Hogstad, Östergötland, I paused scrolling and there was the family name of Slättengren. Slättengren is not a common surname, and in my ancestors' cases it derives from the farm Slättö in Hjälmseryd, Jönköping, where Jöns (or Jonas as he was later called) Jönsson, the first of my ancestors to take that surname, was born 15 Dec 1769.¹

I think I might have been at the FHL (Family History Library) in Salt Lake City when I serendipitously found Anna Lena Slättengren living and working as a maid at Beletorp, Hogstad, Östergötland. To confirm her identity and relationship, Anna Lena's birth record for 3 Oct. 1805 from Ekeby, Öst., was inspected and it was confirmed that she was indeed born to the scissors maker (*saxmakaren*) Jonas Slättengren and his wife Stina Tylin, aged 35.²

Anna Lena and her younger brother Jonas Fredrik Slättengren both move to Beletorp, Hogstad, in 1826; Anna Lena from Åsbo to work as a maid (*piga*), and Jonas Fredrik from Ekeby at age 17 to work as a farm hand (*dräng*). There the head of household is the *Skatteman* P[eter] Carlsson who was born in 1778 in Krigsberg (now: Kristberg, Östg.) and who is married to Brita Andersdotter. Brita was born in 1757 in Hogstad. Jonas Fredrik stays at Beletorp until 1828 when he moves back to Ekeby.

In the meantime the first of Anna Lena's children, Carl Peter, is born 26 Oct. 1827.³ The birth record for Hogstad records Carl Peter's birth as

"*öäpta*,"⁴ or as an illegitimate birth. Three more children followed: son Gotfrid, b 5 May 1833; daughter Anna Lovisa, b 28 Feb 1835; and finally son August, b 25 Nov 1844. All of Anna Lena's children were born at Beletorp and are *öäpta barn*.

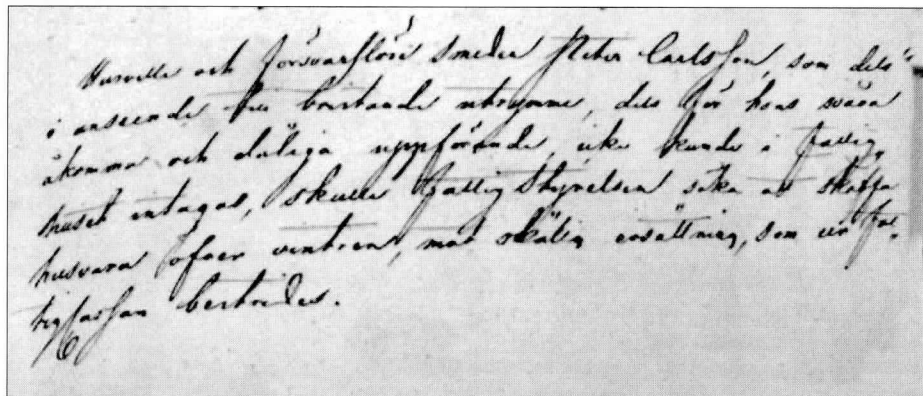
On 28 Oct 1843 Brita Andersdotter, at the age of 86, dies at Beletorp leaving a husband and a maid with four "*öäpta barn*." A note in the clerical survey seems to indicate that the five survivors may have moved to Rinna, but this appears to be the case only for Anna Lena's son Carl Petter since only his name is found in the moving out records for 1845. At the same time Petter Carlsson, who is now described as having no lodgings and being poor, applies to the parish council to be taken in at the local *Fattigstuga*, which he is denied because of lack of space.⁵

In 1846 the names of Petter Carl-

son, Anna Lena, and three of her children, Gotfrid, Anna Lovisa, and August appear on the parish's "*Försvarslösa Personer*" list, or list of people without a guardian or legal protection.

On 29 Oct 1848 Petter Carlsson dies in the parish poor house at the age of 70 (no cause of death listed).⁶

From about 1852 Anna Lena and her three youngest children are also found living at the poor house. In 1861 Anna Lena's son August moves to Hogstad *Skattegård* where his surname is recorded as "Petersson."⁷ He remains at Hogstad *Skattegård* for two years before moving in 1863 to Hogstad *fogdegård* until 1865⁸ when he moves away from Hogstad entirely having moved to Motala *Verkstad*. Daughter Anna Lovisa Persdotter, maid from Hogstad *Östergård*, gets married to Sven Petter Jonsson (1839-1874) on 25 Mar 1865



Hogstad parish Council minutes Nov., 21, 1845 (Hogstad KI:2, p. 143, Regional archives at Vadstena, photo E. Thorsell): Husville och försvarslöse Smeden Peter Carlsson, som dels i anseende för bristande utrymme, dels för hans svåra åkomma och dåliga uppförande icke kan i fattighuset intagas, skulle Fattig styrelsen söka att skaffa honom husvara öfver vintern, mot skälig ersättning, som af Fattigcassan bestrides. The houseless and defenseless smith Peter Carlsson, who partly because of lack of space, and partly because his bad sickness and bad conduct can not be placed in the workhouse, the poor board will try to find him some place to live during winter, for a reasonable amount, which will be paid by the poor cash.

in Hogstad.⁹ Son Gotfrid Pettersson moves to Hogstad Ljuna *Mellangård* in 1849 before moving to Högbý (Östg.) in 1850.¹⁰ Son Carl Petter Petersson returns to Hogstad from Rinna and in 1862 is found at Hogstad's *Fattigstuga* where at age 46 he pre-deceases his mother on 8 April 1874 from chest fever.¹¹ Shortly thereafter on 29 May 1874 Anna Lena Slättengren also dies at the Hogstad *Fattigstuga* at age 68 years. She died from chest fever.¹²

The father?

Who then is the father of Anna Lena's four children? Is it the head of house Petter Carlsson? Maybe. In the Clerical Survey notes for 1842-1848 a note was made by the parish pastor for August, and only August. He noted: "*smeden Petter Carlsson säges vara fader*,"¹³ or the smith Petter Carlsson is said to be the father. In his note the parish pastor acknowledges parish gossip that the father is quite possibly Petter Carlson, but that Petter has not made a formal acceptance of that fact.

I have wondered if the name of Anna Lena's eldest son, Carl Peter, is a clue to his father's name since it is a reverse of Petter Carlson's name. Without proof that idea remains only conjecture. The surnames of the four children are given as Petterson, Peterson, or Persdotter would seem to indicate the father's name was Petter/Peter or Per, but without a formal acknowledgement of parentage by Petter Carlson we may never know who the biological father really is.

It was customary for a woman to be fined for having children out of wedlock. And in Oct. 1828 and again in March 1833 Anna Lena was fined after the births of her 1st and 2nd children. Records of these fines appear in Hogstad's church accounts which are not yet online.¹⁴ The minutes of the Göstring *Häradsrätt* (District Court) were also searched for the time when the children were born, with no results.

Petter Carlsson appears in these records since he had to pay fines in 1835 for not helping when there was

a forest fire in the area, and again when he instructed his farm hand to cut some trees down on a neighbor's property.¹⁵

In an estate inventory, or *boupp-teckning*, a man will sometimes acknowledge parentage of an illegitimate child. It was hoped that Petter Carlsson might acknowledge parentage of one or more of Anna Lena's children in his estate inventory, if one exists.

At the behest of Åke Strähle a search at the regional archives in Vadstena for the estate inventories of Anna Lena, Brita Andersdotter, and Petter Carlsson was made. Not unexpectedly since Anna Lena and Petter both died in the poorhouse, none could be found for them, or for Brita Andersdotter, Petter's wife, either.¹⁶ It is probable that we will never know for sure who the father of Anna Lena's four children is. What we do know is that the presence of one maid with four children born without the benefit of marriage in the early half of the 19th century would have proved to have been a headache for the parish pastor.

I would like to thank Elisabeth Thorsell for helping to find the father of Anna Lena's children by making a search of records in the Vadstena archives. At this point we will probably never know for sure who the father is, but it is most probable that it is Petter Carlsson.

Endnotes:

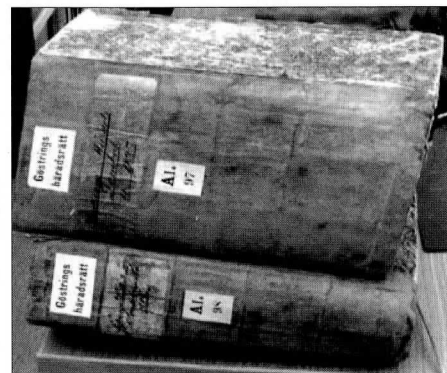
- 1) Hjälmseby parish (Smål.) Births (1745-1779) C:2, pg 215; (accessed through Ancestry.com, digital image pg 112).
- 2) Ekeby parish (Östg.) Births (1760-1840) CI:1, pg 315.
- 3) Hogstad parish (Östg.) *Hfl* (1826-1831) AI:3, pg 136 (accessed from ancestry.com, digital image pg 148).
- 4) Hogstad CII:1 (1844-1854) Bild 27 / pg 43, Hogstad parish (Östg.) Births (1827-1860) CI:4, pg 4 (Ancestry.com, digital image pg 8).
- 5) Hogstad parish (Östg.) Deaths (1844-1854) CII:1, pg 42, (Ancestry.com, image 30).

- 6) Hogstad parish (Östg.) *Hfl* (1861-1866) AI:9, pg 6, (Ancestry.com, image 12).
- 7) Hogstad parish (Östg.) *Hfl* (1861-1866) AI:9, pg 18a (Ancestry.com, image 24).
- 8) Hogstad parish (Östg.) Marriage (1865) (Ancestry.com, digital image 176).
- 9) Hogstad parish (Östg.) *Utflyttning* 1850 (AI:7) (Ancestry.com, digital image 178).
- 10) Hogstad parish (Östg.) Death (1874) (Ancestry.com, digital image 481).
- 11) Hogstad parish (Östg.) Death (1874) (Ancestry.com, digital image 481).
- 12) Hogstad parish (Östg.) *Hfl* (1842-1848) AI:6, pg. 106 (Ancestry.com, digital image pg. 122).
- 13) Hogstad Lib:2. Provincial archives; Vadstena, Sweden.
- 14) Göstring *Häradsrätt* (District court) minutes AIa:98-105. Provincial archives, Vadstena, Sweden.
- 15) Elisabeth Thorsell, Sweden to David Anderson e-mail 29 Oct 2013.
- 16) Åke Strähle, Sweden to David Anderson, e-mail, 30 Apr 2013.

For an in depth discussion (in Swedish) I recommend the following website: <http://www.genealogi.se/oakta.htm>.

SAG 2010/1 has an article on "Father unknown – what to do" by Elisabeth Thorsell.

Author David Anderson lives in Portland, Ore.
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The Letter from Sweden

All letters from "home" did not contain good news

*Helgagården 18 July
1915*

Dear Uncle,

Peace!

Now I want to write some lines to you, Uncle, and convey a last greeting from our dear Pappa.

His life ended on the 30th of June and he was then allowed to go home to God.

Pappa fell ill on the 6th of June when he got a cerebral hemorrhage, and became lame in half of his body, and then was bedridden. On Midsummer's Day he became much worse, he lost his ability to speak, and

sadly passed away a few days later, very calmly and peacefully. It is so empty after him, so I can not tell you how, but it feels good to have the hope for a reunion, where no partings will ever take place. Yes, may God bless us all.

Soon we may also take leave.

Pappa was buried on 6 July in the Svarttorp cemetery, when a great circle of friends and relatives were assembled to follow him to his last resting place.

His age was 78 years, 7 months and 21 days.

Aunt Mathilda could not attend, her health is rather frail, but her daughter and husband came, and stayed here for a couple of days.

We are all in good health and feeling well.

At last our greetings from all of us.

Written in haste by the smallest of Pappa's girls
Netzie

Who was Pappa?

The deceased man was Frans Gustaf Valfrid Svensson, born 9 Nov. 1836 in Södra Ralingsås Norrgård in Lommaryd (Smål.), son of Sven Persson and his wife Anna Gustafva Ingessedotter.

In 10 Nov. 1872 he married in Svarttorp the widow Eva Stina Karlsdotter from Helgagården, (b. 9 May 1830 in Svarttorp, died there 20 Feb. 1881). No children in this marriage.

On 14 Oct. 1883 he remarried in Lekeryd (Smål.) to Christina Magnusdotter, (b. there 31 Aug. 1853, died 15 June 1894 of heart failure in Svarttorp). The couple had six children, all born i Svarttorp: Valfrid Edvin Johannes (b. 27 Dec. 1883); Lydia Elvira (b. 17 Sep. 1886, died 5 Nov. 1918); Maria Cecilia (b. 29 Jan. 1888, died 1 July 1894 of kidney disease); Alma Elisabeth (b. 22 Mar. 1889); Ester Linnea (b. 4 Nov. 1891, died 28

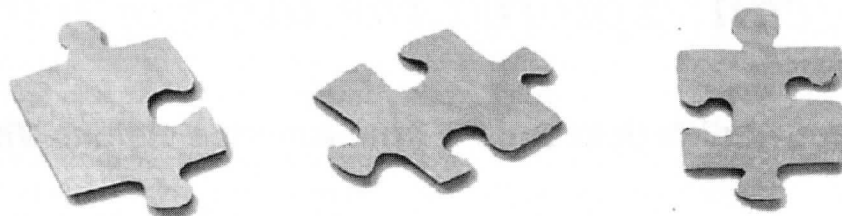
Dec. 1990 in Nässjö, Sweden); and Nättci Susanna (b. 15 Jun. 1894. The youngest children were not baptized.

Son Valfrid and his sisters Alma and Nättci went to the U.S.

This letter was sent to Frans's brother George Swanson, who lived in Moline, IL.

Submitted by George's descendant Janice Asp. Her e-mail is <jasp441@gmail.com>

Bits & Pieces



1921 Canadian census is now indexed

Earlier this year images of the 1921 Canadian census were released on Ancestry.com. Also on FamilySearch.

By the end of October 2013 they have now been indexed and thus much easier to search.

(From <http://olivetreegenealogy.blogspot.se>)

SSDI now has a three-year privacy restriction

The recently passed U.S. Federal Budget includes a restriction to public access of information in the *Social Security Death Index*. It has been stated that the changes will save the U.S. government an estimated \$786 million over the next decade by reducing fraudulent claims. Data is not available for a three-year period starting with an individual's date of death. Some reports state records are unavailable for "individuals who died within the past three calendar years." This regulation should include people who died in the past three years that were part of the SSDI prior to the passing of the budget. No online site has indicated they plan to remove these persons from their database.

More information at page 30.

(Nu? What's New? Vol. 15, No. 01 – January 5, 2014).

The Swedish Genealogy Convention 30–31 Aug. 2014

Welcome to the Genealogy Convention in Karlstad!

The Genealogy Convention will be located at the Convention Center.

The theme for the Genealogy Convention 2014 in Karlstad is "Migration – past, present and future." Lectures, exhibitors, and much more!

Link on p. 30.

Ellis Island and hurricane Sandy

Hurricane Sandy (unofficially known as "Superstorm Sandy") was the deadliest and most destructive hurricane of the 2012 Atlantic hurricane season, as well as the second-costliest hurricane in United States history. It hit New York on 29 Oct. 2012, and one of the victims was Ellis Island.

The brick-and-limestone French Renaissance Revival building that serves as the centerpiece of Ellis Island was spared major structural damage during the hurricane. But the storm surge sent eight feet of water, pouring into the basement, destroying the site's electrical, computing, phone, heat, water and sewage systems. Concerned about humidity levels and temperatures, officials moved two-thirds of the museum's collection into storage.

Ellis Island was closed for almost a year and reopened in late October 2013.

Ellis Island is open to visitors while the National Park Service continues to make repairs after Hurricane Sandy. Although some areas are restricted, visitors can stop in the American Family Immigration History Center to research their family immigration records and explore the Great Hall, "Journeys: The Peopling of America 1550-1890" exhibit which tells the story of immigration prior to Ellis's opening in 1892, and The American Immigrant Wall of Honor. Visitors can also enjoy the audio tour, join a ranger program, and watch the award-winning documentary "Island of Hope, Island of Tears."

(New York Times 29 Oct. 2013, Wikipedia and www.ellisland.org)



A new exhibition

Discover the incredible psaligraphy of Danish-Norwegian artist Karen Bit Vejle. Meet "Bit" at the Papercut!

Denmark rightfully boasts a long tradition of papercutting, or psaligraphy as it is referred to in the technical sense, thanks in large part to the work of H.C. Andersen.

The exhibition is open 24 Jan. to 24 May 2014.

The Swedish Emigrant Institute Shuts Down Operations

The Board of Directors for the Swedish Emigrant Institute (SEI) decided at its meeting on November 12, 2013, that the Swedish Emigrant Institute Foundation will be disbanded. All operations under SEI's direction will immediately cease or will transfer to one or more of SEI's affiliate organizations. Continuing information about the closure can be followed on SEI's home page.

For specific questions, please visit: [<info@utvandrararnashus.se>](mailto:info@utvandrararnashus.se)
Växjö 2013, Board of Directors for the Swedish Emigrant Institute

The Great Swedish Adventure again

The casting for the fourth season of this TV show, also known as *Allt för Sverige*, is now finished. The names of the participants has not yet been disclosed, but will be presented in the next SAG.

Leif Mörkfors, Järfälla, is the new researcher for the show.

Jean explored the land of her roots in 2013

A Swedish descendant from America visiting Virestad parish

By YLVA SAMUELSSON

During Midsummer 2013 a very nice lady by the name of Jean Larson of Dallas, Texas, visited Virestad parish. She made a trip of more than 8000 kilometers across the world in her ancestral tracks, to see with her own eyes places where her roots are firmly planted in the soil of Småland.

Jean's great-grandfather's name was Sven Larsson, and he was born in 1848 in Kateboda (then associated with Virestad parish). On 31 Jan. 1870 Sven emigrated, like so many others, from small poor Småland to the great rich land of America, where opportunities to earn a living was so infinitely greater.

Sven went first to Rockford, Illinois, and the following year his siblings also came. Peter (b. 18 July 1851) and Nilla (b. 26 Feb. 1845) joined him in Rockford. Sven and Peter earned their living as farm laborers for eight years in Illinois. They saved their wages to eventually be able to buy their own separate farms in Maple Valley township, Buena Vista County, Iowa.

Marriage and family

On 4 Sep. 1881 Kristina Jonsdotter (in the U.S.: Christina Johnson), born 9 Oct. 1856 in Finnanäs, Västra Tors-

ås, migrated to Buena Vista County, Iowa. She and Sven found each other and married shortly thereafter. Sven sold his first farm and bought, together with Christina, a new farm in Diamond township, Cherokee County, Iowa. At about the same time he renounced his allegiance to the Swedish king and became a United States citizen.

Sven and Christina had four children, three sons and a daughter. The eldest son, George, became a farmer like his father. He had a farm in Aurelia, and he married Lydia Lydell, a widow originally from Hestra (Smål.). She already had two children, and together they had three more. Their son Orville abandoned his father's occupation and became an accountant for the government. His only child was his daughter Jean, who is now an avid genealogist and thus a third generation Swedish descendant.

Plans for Sweden!

After actively researching her family for over 18 years, Jean decided she wanted to visit the places where her ancestors had been born and where they experienced their childhood. So she went on a week-long guided group tour in Denmark and Sweden and remained in Scandinavia a few extra days for personal travel. Prior to leaving she researched heritage association web pages for parishes where her ancestors lived. She also contacted the Kronoberg Genealogical Association (KGF) and asked for information about Virestad and Västra Torsås. Ingegerd Johansson, from KGF, and Ylva Samuelsson from Virestad heritage society responded.

	Personernas namn, stånd, embete, yrke och näringsfång, (backstugu-, inhyses- och fattighjon), nationalitet (om främmande), lyten, (svagsinta, blinda, döfstamma).	Födelse-		
		År.	Mån och dag.	Ort, (Socken i Län, Stad)
1	J. Stenbrochult S. Kateboda Mantat.			
2	4/4 E. Lars Jonsen	1815	26/4	yyd
3	H. Svenborg Svensdottr	1809	29/8	
4	J. Nils Jonsen	1832	20/5	
5	D. Ingrid Larsson	1840	4/11	
6	D. Nilla Larsson	1845	26/2	
7	J. Lars Larsson	1848	16/7	
8	J. Peter Larsson	1851	18/7	

Virestad AI:18, p. 192 (1866-1870). Picture from Arkiv Digital.



Kateboda farm in 1942, then owned by Lars Gustaf Nilsson, b. 1883, son of Johannes Nilsson and his wife Ingrid Larsdotter. Picture from Svenska Gods och Gårdar (1942).

She sought assistance for the additional days that she wanted to spend visiting Virestad and Västra Torsås. And since Ingegerd and Ylva themselves are dedicated genealogists, there was of course no doubt that this was something that we very much wanted to help with.

A detailed plan was made up for the three days that were available. All were aimed so Jean would see both as much as possible of her ancestral home, but also that she would get a glimpse of the "Småland of Today."



Ylva Samuelsson and Ingegerd Johansson.

Arrival in Småland

At noon on Midsummer Eve Jean arrived at *Pensionat Björkelund* in Stenbrohult. There she met Ingegerd and Ylva and the first item on the agenda was a visit to the Midsummer celebrations in Virestads Community Park. In America midsummer is not celebrated, so it was especially satisfying to see how Swedes celebrate this event, with the midsummer pole,

folk dance team dances and costumes, girls with garlands in their hair, etc. She visited the cabins in the park and saw what her ancestral homes may have looked like.

After midsummer celebrations, we were welcomed at the home of Hugo Magnusson and his wife Maj-Britt in Brommeshult, Virestad. Hugo was born there, and it turned out he is a third cousin to Jean's father!

He showed a photograph he had of his grandfather's aunt's son and his family, and Jean was pleased that she knew the photograph well. It was her great-grandfather with his family, and it is a copy of the larger picture that she has at home in Dallas. Ancestors echo across both centuries and continents, and we can all understand how clearly she feels bonds tied together in this now.

The talk with Hugo and his wife was both enjoyable and interesting, and Maj-Britt served coffee and homemade cakes that tasted deliciously good on midsummer evening.

On the road

The next day it was time for a tour along the byways around Virestad and Västra Torsås. Ingegerd was well prepared and chose farms where Jean's ancestors resided. First stop was Gottåsa old inn, then we visited the Kärre, Kull, and Torsås villages.



Torsås Sjögård, with the Sjöströms, and Ylva and Ingegerd. Jean stands to the right.

In Västra Torsås we visited the first church and looked for a headstone that may be related to Jean. Then we went to Torsås Sjögård, where we were welcomed by Ann-Kristin and Thomas Sjöström who now own and occupy the beautiful old farm that has been in Ann-Kristin's family for many generations. Even Ann-Kristin is distantly related to Jean, and there was a nice chat with the family before it was time to rush on to a lunch on Thurs farm in Lönehult.

After lunch we drove to Finnanäs where Jean's grandfather's mother Christina was born. Jean had her camera ready, and took pictures of all the farms we showed her. Of course, most of the houses are newly built or renovated since her ancestors inhabited them, but the Småland core can always be seen.

The stones of Småland

Jean told an anecdote about how Swedes who moved to America felt about rocks even after they left Sweden. One of Sven Larsson's sisters, Ingrid, did not move to the United States, but her daughter Signild did. She married Charles Nelson, from Västra Torsås and they had four children. One day their two daughters wanted to build a "rock garden", i.e. a garden with rocks, in their yard.



Virestad church.

When Charles Nelson came home that day he told the girls to put the rocks back. He said he was from the rocky Västra Torsås and did not want his daughters putting rocks in his yard. Since childhood he had to work himself weary removing all these miserable stones from the fields in Sweden.

Well, via Brommeshult and Hormeshult we came to Åbogen, and then the day was spent already so we ended the tour there.

In Kateboda and more

Sunday began with a visit to two of the Kateboda farms. In advance, we had contacted the current residents there, Per-Olof Johnsson and Stefan Salomonsson, and they had kindly consented to let us come and roam around the yard and take pictures. Unfortunately, the weather was not the best, but for Jean, it was obviously a good experience to finally see her great-grandfather's birthplace. She turned up the jacket hood against the rain and photographed



The Massa Pettern's dug-out (jordkula) in Västra Torsås.

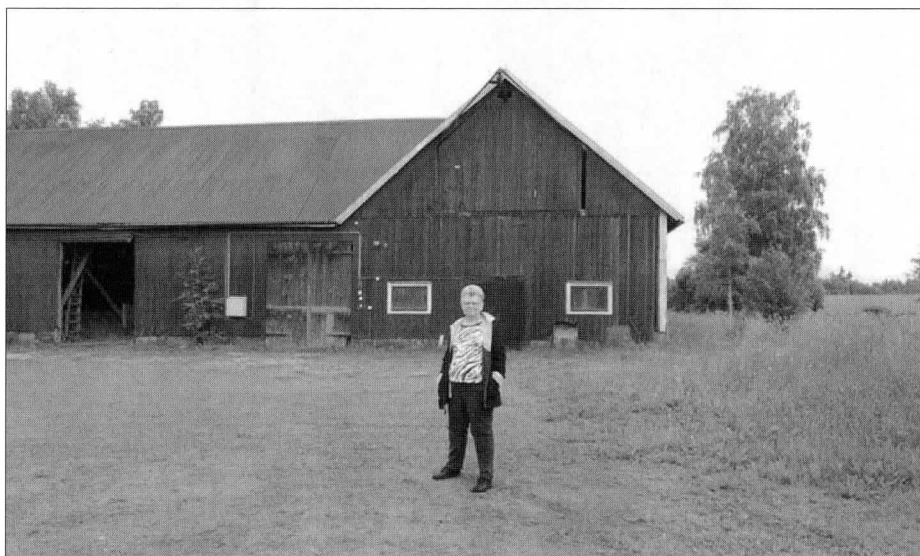
everything of interest. The house in Kateboda is certainly not the same anymore, but there are gateposts, a root cellar, stone walls, and much more that look like it could have been there since the late 1800s. Even some older farm implements, such as a scythe leaning against the barn, was photographed and discussed.

From Kateboda we continued the trek out to Tjurkö, in Agunnaryd parish, where Ingegerd offered a lunch of smoked sausages cooked the "Småland way," in the wonderful environment of the beautiful old farm where she grew up.

In the afternoon we visited Massa Pettern's dug-out (*jordkoja*) in Västra Torsås. It is a well preserved poor man's dwelling, which shows visitors how modern living conditions actually were like for the district's less fortunate. On the way we stopped also, of course, in Grönhult and Stahult, two farms that often occur in a Västra Torsås researchers ancestry.

The evening ended with a visit to Stenbrohult church, where this year's Music Week had begun that day. A visit to one of our beautiful churches, with a taste of our beautiful Swedish music, thus rounded off American Jean's visit to Småland.

We hope she has had a fruitful stay in our wonderful countryside, and that she has taken home many wonderful memories from her ancestral homeland.



Jean at the Kateboda farm.

Jean Larson lives in Dallas, Texas.

Her e-mail is
<jeans48gen@sbcglobal.net>

Ylva Samuelsson lives in Liatorp, Sweden.

Her e-mail is
<lullan67@telia.com>

Careless driving in the the 1850s

A young man was killed, but who was responsible?

BY ELISABETH THORSELL

A SAG reader, Ingrid Johnson, sent in a newspaper clipping from 14 March 1856 which told the sad story of the death of a young man.

The newspaper was named *Hwad Nytt?* and was published in Eksjö for some years in the middle of the 1850s.

The persons involved were:

1) the victim, *drängen* Samuel Johansson, b. 14 Oct. 1827 in Edshult (Smål.), who died 8 Feb. 1856 in Eksjö, but his death was recorded in Hult (Smål.) where he worked.

2) *Nämndeman* (permanent jurymen) Johan Pettersson, b. 24 Nov. 1802 in Flisby, owner of a farm in Sjöarp, Eksjö *landsförsamling*.

3) *Brukare* (tenant farmer) Carl Jonas Jaensson, b. 27 Sep. 1816 in Askeryd (Smål.), now living at Redegård in Askeryd.

What happened?

In early February there was a market going on in Eksjö town. Many people from the rural areas around the town went there to do business, buy some extra food, go to the inn and have some beer or just to meet friends and hear the news.

On 8 February at the end of the afternoon, when it was getting dark, Samuel Johansson, who had gone to the market in the company of his father Johannes Pettersson and brother Jonas Johansson, started to walk back home with Jonas, leaving their father in town. They walked for a while, and then decided to return to Eksjö and meet with some friends that had promised that they could ride in their sleigh, as there was enough snow on the ground for that. Samuel and his brother walked on the side of the road, but then they

saw three sleighs coming towards them with high speed, all driving side by side, coming down a hill called "Dunderbacken."

Samuel and Jonas went down in the ditch. But Samuel was not quick enough, so he got hit by one of the sleighs, the one on the right, and fell down unconscious. Jonas shouted at the drivers that they should stop, but they just continued at the same speed as before.

Jonas and some of the others took Samuel to town, where he died within the hour, before the doctor arrived.

In the magistrates court

This accident was reported to the authorities in Eksjö, and was soon discussed in the magistrates court (*Rådhusrätten*), on 11 Feb. Two of the drivers had been identified, Johan Pettersson and Carl Jaensson, but for some reason they were not heard until the next meetings on 23 February and 10 March.

Johan told the court that he had come behind the other drivers, and when he came down the hill he had seen a man lying besides the road, but had not stopped by the man, as he thought that the man was drunk. He also denied that he had been driving recklessly.

The prosecutor answered him that this kind of driving was not appropriate for a man of his position, a former *nämndeman* and church warden. Johan also denied hearing anyone shouting for him to stop.

The witness Johan Svensson Malm told that he had recognized Johan Pettersson, and that Carl Jaensson had been in front of him. Another witness, Anders Berggren, said that he had seen those two men driving

side by side and then a third sleigh had driven in between them, all coming down the hill at high speed.

A third witness was dismissed, as it was found out that Johan had coached him as to what he should say, and he was also in service at Johan's farm.

Next Carl Jaensson was heard, and he told that he had had problems with his unruly horse, and was very remorseful that this had happened. It would not have happened if the other had not dared him to a race, and he had also been a little drunk.

Samuel's father Johannes Pettersson now showed an agreement with Carl Jaensson in which Carl promised to pay Johannes and his wife 1 barrel of grain every year as long as they lived, as they had been dependent on Samuel for their food.

The prosecutor now wondered if Johan Pettersson, who was a rich man, could not also promise the same, which he did.

Carl admitted that he had hit Samuel with his right shaft (*skakel*) on the sleigh, but insisted that it had been an accident.

Johan denied all complicity in this, and was let go. Carl was sentenced to pay for this accident $\frac{1}{2}$ wergild (*mansbot*), which was 50 *Riksdaler*, 6 *Riksdaler* 32 *skilling* for being drunk, and pay 6 *Riksdaler* 8 *skilling* for the autopsy, and finally 33 *Riksdaler* 16 *skilling* for witnesses' travel cost, all in *Riksdaler Banco*, which was a huge sum. It was somewhere around 7,400 SEK in today's money.

Source: Eksjö *Rådhusrätt*, vol: A1a:7. Dates: 11, 23 Feb., 10, 31 March, 1856. Original records kept in Vadstena Regional archives, Sweden.

Turn back, turn back, Oh time in thy might! Make me a child again, just for tonight.

An old lady wrote her memories of her childhood in the early 1900s

BY EFFIE JOHNSON

I remember my childhood very pleasant. Although we had not much of the so-called worldly goods, we had lots of fun!

As I think back now, this was very much due to the love and devotion my sister Alma gave us; she devoted her life to raise my brother and sisters. Alma Regina Benson, as she was baptized, was born July 26, 1883, in Manistee, Michigan, the firstborn of John & Louisa Benson. She moved with her parents to a farm in Free Soil, Mason County, Michigan, where she was to spend the rest of her life. Because of the arrival of four brothers and four sisters in the ensuing years, Alma was forced to leave school at an early age (5th grade school was not compulsory then as it is now.) However, this did not stop Alma from reading and improving her mind. At an early age she was sewing for the whole family, not only plain sewing but dresses with fine tucks, lace insertions, pleats, ruffles, etc. – nothing was too complicated for Alma to tackle, and without a sewing lesson.

Life on a farm in those days was far from easy: up early in the morning milking, cooking, churning, bread making, weeding, canning were some of the chores to be done. Water was carried from a spring below a steep hill – a well was later dug and a pump installed for water – where also milk & butter were kept due to lack of refrigeration in the summertime. Later, a house was built and ice cut from the lakes in the wintertime and stored in sawdust and this was used in ice boxes where

a pan of water had to be kept under the box to catch the drip as the ice melted.

When I was 8 years old in 1908 our father died and Alma was named administrator of the estate. Before he died he had asked Alma to stay on the farm with my mother. The family now consisted of Alma, Betty, Ann, Fred, Ellen, and Effie – the other two boys having died in infancy and one born dead. The two boys died of black diphtheria a month apart – this was a disease much feared as it was almost always fatal.

All of us except Alma were born in a log house built on the original homestead. This house needed replacing as it had seen its best days and my father had been hauling lumber and cement blocks, storing them with this in mind. So in a few months Alma drew up the plans for a new home to be built nearer the main road and across from Will Weaver's house. Mother and Alma hired an old Scandinavian carpenter who stayed on the farm getting his room, board, and washing done as part of the fee. He was there about a year when the house was completed enough so we moved in. Boy, were we ever excited! In those days we children had mattresses stuffed with corn husks and they could be so high before they got pressed down we could hardly get into them.

In the log house we had handloomed carpeting on the floor with straw under it for padding – was this ever dusty in the spring when we did spring house cleaning – each runner

had to be taken apart and washed and new straw put under after pieces were sewed together again. – No vacuums those days, just a carpet beater or broom. We had a summer kitchen in the log house – not used in winter except to store wood, etc. It just had the rafters and the hornets used to build their clay houses in the ceiling and buzz around.

Alma, in addition to all her activities, tatted, crocheted, and made rugs. My mother's speciality was braided rugs which we had all over the floors and so heavy to shake we hated that job!

Alma also tried her hand in making maple syrup – tapping the maple trees which grew around our place. She also made some hair pieces (not wigs) which she made from combing – we all had long hair then.

When I was about 13 my grandfather (Louisa's father, John Adolphson) came to live with us and my Uncle Renholt, (Louisa's brother) came with him from Minnesota.

Uncle Renholt was a bachelor who had run a threshing outfit in Minnesota and we all loved him, he was so easygoing and told such grand stories about his life. He drank too much and occasionally went on sprees when he would literally throw his money away and come home broke. He bought a farm about 10 miles from us and had such a spirited team of horses who never walked even when plowing or doing other heavy work.

Alma and my mother baked bread and cookies for him and he came once a week to get them and probably

spend most of the day with us. Later he was to sell his farm and move in with us, and my sister Alma nursed both my uncle and grandfather when they died at our house. They are buried in Maple Grove cemetery, Mason County, Michigan.

Alma also took care of my mother until she died, and she was in poor health about 3 years before she died, having hardening of the arteries which causes one to forget and mentally deteriorate.

When I was eighteen, I decided to go to Ferris Institute to take up a business course. As money was scarce, Ellen, who was on her first teaching job, would loan me my tuition and rent money. Alma & Fred would send me a box of groceries every week which they did until I completed my course and went to Detroit to work.

Written by Effie Johnson (b. 1900) – daughter of Johan Bengtsson (John Benson), who immigrated to the U.S.A. in 1872, from Friel parish in Skaraborg county.



Map from Handy Book for Genealogists.

Addendum

Johan Bengtsson was born 14 July 1848 on the farm Torpet in Friel parish in Skaraborg county. Friel is situated on the coast of Lake Vänern, halfway between the cities of Lidköping (to the north) and Vänersborg (to the south). At least 135 individuals left Friel for America according to the database *Emibas*.

Johan Bengtsson was one of the eleven children of Bengt Hansson and his wife Annika Andersdotter. Of these children two died as little children, but the rest of them grew to adulthood. Brother Anders Bengtsson (b. 15 Dec. 1846 in Friel, immigrated 1871 and then used the name Andrew Ekvall. He first lived in Lockport, Will Co., Illinois, but later moved to Manistee, Michigan, where he ran a tavern with his brothers, John and Gus. They sold this and all of them moved to Free Soil, where they all became farmers. Andrew Ekvall died in 1921 in Manistee, Michigan.

The third immigrant from this family was Gustaf Bengtsson, b. 1 Nov. 1850 in Friel. He immigrated in 1879, and joined his brothers in Manistee, and later moved with them to Free Soil to farm. He used the name Gus Benson in the U.S. Gus died in 1926.

Johan became John Benson in the U.S., and also farmed in Free Soil, as told before in his daughter Effie's story. John married in 1882 to Louisa (in Sweden Lovisa) Adolphson, born 26 Aug. 1860 at Hov Busegård in Hov parish (Östg.). Her parents were the blacksmith Johan Fredrik Adolfsson, b. 27 Dec. 1826 in Tidarsrum (Östg.) and his wife Brita Margareta Gustafsdotter, b. 15 Oct. 1824 in Fivelstad (Östg.). The family consisted of the parents and eleven children, all born in Hov: twins Amanda and Fredrika (b. 17 Mar. 1850, Amanda died 9 Mar. 1851; and Fredrika 17 Jan. 1851) Gustaf (b. 29 Nov. 1851; Carl Johan (b. 8 Dec. 1853); Adolf Werner (b. 20 Jul. 1855); Axel (b. 16 Jan. 1859); Lovisa (see above); Albert (b. 27 Apr. 1862); Reinhold (b. 5 Aug. 1864); Hedvig (b. 18 Oct. 1866, died 24 July



Sisters Effie Johnson and Ellen Smith. (Photo in Los Angeles 1997 by Åke Somnell).

1867); and Anna Matilda (b. 19 Jan. 1868, died 25 Aug. 1868). There are no causes of death mentioned for the two youngest daughters, but one can wonder if their deaths had anything to do with the very bad years 1867-1869, when the crops failed and it either rained too much or too little. The hardships of those years made the decision to emigrate easier, to escape poverty and deaths.

On 9 Aug. 1869 the father Johan Fredrik left for America in the company of his son Gustaf, with tickets for Chicago. Son Carl Johan left in 1870, son Adolf Werner left in 1872, and wife Brita Margareta with the rest of the children in 1873.

John Benson and Louisa had eight children: Alma (b. 1883); Frederick (died at age 3); Albert (died at age 6); Betty (b. 1891); Anna (b. 1894); Frederick (b. 1895); Ellen (b. 1898); and Effie (b. 1900).

Louisa died 1945 in Free Soil.

Anna married Ira Granger (1880-1962), and she died in 1983.

Ellen married David Smith (1901-1987), and died in 1997.

Effie married Fred Johnson (died 1970), and died in 1998 in Los Angeles, CA.

The other siblings never married. Alma died in 1957, Fred died in 1961, and Betty in 1982.

Source: The article and addendum are based on material provided by Kjerstin Olofsson of Viskafors, Sweden. E-mail: kno.olofsson@telia.com

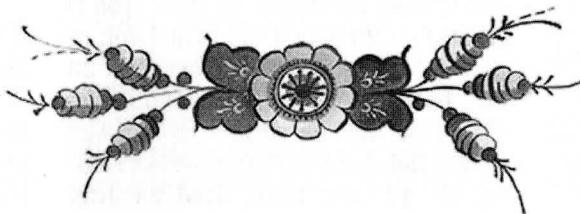
The solution to the Handwriting Example 37

Transcription:

Enkan Brita Larsdotter ifrån Mjelgen. Född i Råltlindorne år 1762 af ärliga och Christlige föräldrar, fadern Lars Hansson och modern Anna Matsdotter, genom hwilkas försorg hon befordrades till dopet och undervistes i Salighetsläran, ingick hon 1792 äktenskap med Olof Persson ifrån Mjelgen, med hwilken hon haft 1 Son och 3 Döttrar. Sonen är före sin moder hädangången till odödlighetens land, men Döttrarna efterleva, wälförsedde. Hon säges ha fört en god o rättskaffens wandel, samt ordentligt begått den H. Nattwarden, som skedde sista gången Pingstdagen förlidet år. Efter 14 dagars sjukdom af svullnad o andtäppa afled hon den 1 i denna månad, 78 år gammal. Sist suckade hon: dödsens skarpa pilar – O Herre lindra väl m.m. samt dagen han är ju aldrig så lång vi måste ju aftonen vänta m m.

Translation:

The widow Brita Larsdotter from Mjelgen. Born in Råltlindorne in 1762 of honest and godfearing parents, father Lars Hansson and mother Anna Matsdotter, through their care she was christened, and learnt about the doctrine of salvation, and in 1792 she married Olof Persson från Mjelgen, with whom she has had 1 son and 3 daughters. The son is before his mother gone to the land of eternal life, but the daughters are alive, and well provided for. She is said to have had a good and righteous conduct, and orderly taken part in H/oly/ Communion, which happened last on Pentecost Day the past year. After 14 days of illness of swelling and shortness of breath she passed away on the 1st of this month, age 78. At the last she sighed: Oh, the sharp arrows of death – Oh Lord[,] soothe me well, etc, the day he is never that long[,] we must wait for the evening, etc.



Before Ellis Island

How were early immigrants received?

BY ELISABETH THORSELL

Well-known Swedish author Fredrika Bremer visited the U.S.A. in 1849 and stayed until 1851. She wrote long letters to her sister in Sweden, which later were published as a book "The Homes in the New World" (1853).

In this book she mentions in November 1849 "Next day an outing was taken to one of the islands near the city, where right-thinking men have founded a huge institution for reception and help for immigrants that are arriving sick or destitute from Europe to New York. The name of the island is Wards Island and the institution is called Emigrant Asylum...."

"At Wards Island one can understand a little of the difficult task the Americans have to encounter in receiving the poor of Europe, often the most miserable of the population, and how to try to meet with them. Thousands that come, clad in rags, being sick, are taken here, being clad, cared for, fed, and are then sent to the West to the Mississippi states, in case they do not have family and friends in the nearby area. Special houses were built for those that were sick with typhoid, for those that were sick to their eyes, for sick children, for those that were recovering, and for child-bed women; several more were going to be built. On the green, free hills, caressed by the soft winds of the sea, the sick, if possible, must become well, the weak stronger. We visited the sick – of which several hundred had typhoid – and also visited the newly recovered at their rich and plentiful dinner table: 'But if they all days get such a soup and such meat' I said to Mr. Colden, the director, 'how do you get them to leave – at least those that only live for their stomach?' 'With them we do as the Quaker did with his adversary' Mr.

Colden answered me smilingly. 'He grabbed the insubordinate with his strong hands. What now! this man said, you are not going to hit me, that is against your religion. No, said the Quaker, I will not hit you, I will just hold you, – fairly unpleasant.'

I was delighted to see this great and growing institution that the people of the New World here build for the wrecked children of the Old World."

More on Wards Island

Miss Bremer's visit made me search for more information on Wards Island. The website of the New York City parks told me:

"The State Emigrant Refuge, a hospital for sick and destitute immigrants, opened in 1847 and it was the biggest hospital complex in the world during the 1850s. The predominance of public works led the City to purchase Wards Island outright in 1851. Twelve years later, the New York City Asylum for the Insane opened on the island. From 1860 until the 1892 opening of Ellis Island, Wards Island along with Castle Clinton on Manhattan's southern tip welcomed America's newcomers at its immigration station."

Castle Garden

From August 1, 1855, through April 18, 1890, immigrants arriving in the state of New York came through Castle Garden. America's first official immigrant examining and processing center, Castle Garden welcomed approximately 8 million immigrants – most from Germany, Ireland, England, Scotland, Sweden, Italy, Russia, and Denmark.

Castle Garden welcomed its last immigrant on April 18, 1890. After the closing of Castle Garden, immigrants were processed at an old barge office in Manhattan until the opening of the Ellis Island Immigration Center on 1 January 1892. More than one in six native-born Americans are descendants of the eight million immigrants who entered the United States through Castle Garden.

Researching Castle Garden Immigrants

The free **CastleGarden.org** database, provided by the New York Battery Conservancy, allows you to search by name and time period for immigrants who arrived in Castle Garden between 1830 and 1890.

Links on p. 30



The institutions on Wards Island (ca 1880).



Book Reviews

Here you will find information about interesting books on the immigration experience, genealogical manuals, books on Swedish customs, and much more. We welcome contacts with SAG readers, suggestions on books to review perhaps.

If you want to review a book yourself, please contact the SAG Editor, at <sag@etgenealogy.se> so we know what you are working on.

Latin for family historians

Latin för släkthistoriker, by Urban Sikeborg. In Swedish. 2013. Hardcover, 103 pages. ISBN 978-91-87676-78-9. Price 225 SEK + postage. Order from Rötterbokhandeln, <<http://shop.genealogi.se/shop/>>

As many researchers have found out, in the older Swedish church records, the clergymen used the Latin language to write about births, marriages and deaths, which can be a problem for one who is not a Latin scholar.

This new book, in Swedish, will, with the use of a good Swedish dictionary, help to decipher the curious words.

The book has nearly 6,500 words, abbreviations, examples, and Latinized names.

The words all have pronunciation diacritical marks, like *úxor* (wife), but these marks are not seen in the old documents, they are just a help to pronounce the words correctly.

SALE!

Swedish Voters in Chicago 1888

By Nils William Olsson
302 pages of Swedes, comments, and indexes.

\$10 + \$5 S&H

Contact Jill Seaholm at
<jillseaholm@augustana.edu>

The author, Urban Sikeborg, has for many years studied the use of Latin in Sweden during the centuries from the 1500s onwards. During this period the kind of Latin that was used was called *Nylatin* (New Latin), which means that it differs from the old Latin that was used during the Roman Empire. These New Latin words might not be found in classical dictionaries, or may have changed their meaning.

One thing to remember is also that words change, according to the gender, so *renatus* is a little boy that is being baptized; when it is a little girl the word is *renata*. Sometimes a man is mentioned as being *a successor matrimonii*. This means that he succeeded someone in a marriage, a widow's second husband.

When the little Anders Pettersson was sent to a city school he soon changed his name to *Andreas Petri*. He also may have added a surname based on his homeplace, for instance *Holmiae*, meaning from Stockholm.

If a man has a very common name, this kind of surname can help to identify him, like *Olaus Andrae Flog-naeus*, a clergyman who was born as Olof Andersson at Västra Flogned in Köla parish (Värmland).

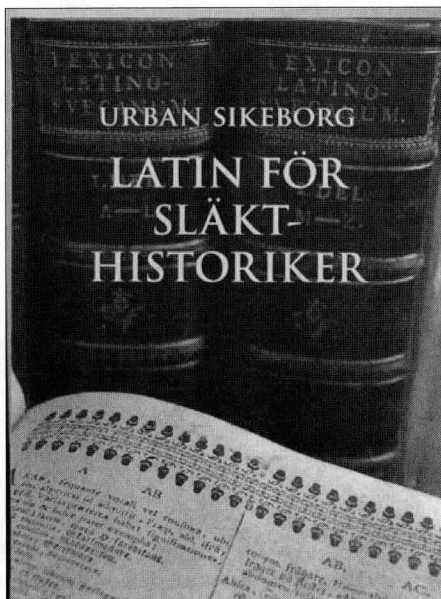
The various names of the Sundays and feastdays are also explained with a note on which day they were celebrated. *Michaelis Archangeli dies* was the feastday of the Archangel Michael, which was celebrated on 29 Sep. This date was for many years the day when farmhands and maids moved to their new employ. In 1819 it was changed to 24 Oct.

Latin was also used frequently in legal records, so words like *auditor*, *auscultans*, *legifer*, and many others are explained in this dictionary.

Sometimes the clergymen used Latin to write notes on the conduct of their parishioners, so if they came by and happened to look into the clerical surveys, they could not read what he had written. One example is *accusatus furti*, which means that someone was accused of being a thief. Another is *ante nuptias natus, alio Patre*, which means born before marriage, had a different father (not the mother's husband). And yet another example is *olim faber ferarrius*, which means (he) used to be an iron smith. Other not so seldom seen words are *ebriosus* (drunk), and *not-hus/not-ha* (illegitimate boy or girl).

This book will be a necessary tool on the desk of all dedicated Swedish researchers, whether they live in America or Sweden.

Elisabeth Thorsell



Book Reviews

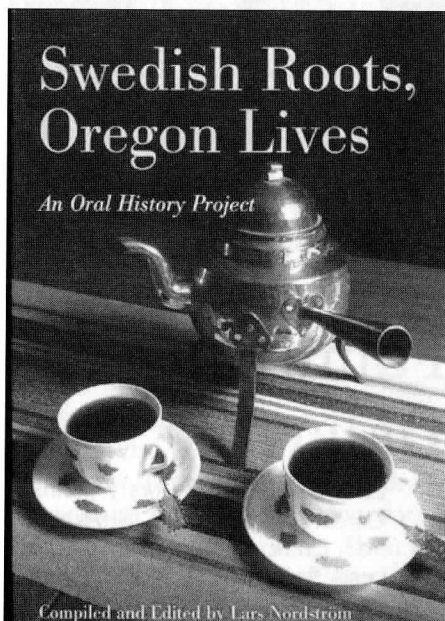


The Swedish experience in Oregon

Swedish Roots, Oregon Lives – an oral history project, compiled and edited by Lars Nordstrom. Publisher: Swedish Roots in Oregon Press. 2013. Softcover, 213 pages, ill., selected bibliography, no index. Price \$ 20 incl. s & h. Order from sales@swedishrootsinoregon.org.

The organization *Swedish Roots in Oregon* started in 1999, and at once realized the value of doing oral history, and preserving the tales of living immigrants. Some of these interviews had been done earlier, but were now merged into the new project.

The project published its first book, *Ten New Lives* in 2011, reviewed in SAG in 2012/1.



This new book is of great interest to anyone who wants to know more about the lives of recent immigrants to the Northwest. It contains edited transcripts of taped interviews with several immigrants that came to Oregon in the 1900s. They tell a little about their background in Sweden, why they left Sweden, and what happened next.

In this book nine women, three men and three married couples tell their stories. The oldest was born in 1898 and the youngest in 1969. The majority have their roots in Norrland, the counties of Västernorrland, Västerbotten, and Norrbotten. The

emigration from Norrland started later than from southern Sweden, according to the statistics.

The first story is told by Oscar and Mary Nastrom (in Sweden the name was Näsström). Oscar immigrated in 1923, and he told this story about his experience at Ellis Island: "I had to show my fifty dollars. There were two other fellows there from the same boat and the same place in Sweden, and all three of us used the same fifty dollars going through. It was passed from one to the next, and then I got it back." He then worked at various places in Nebraska and Wyoming, before coming to Portland, Ore., in

Add to your family history

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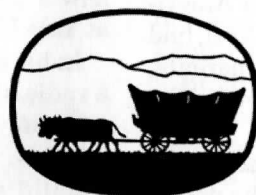
The Society's latest book is *Norwegians and Swedes in the United States: Friends and Neighbors*

For more information, write

Swedish-American Historical Society
3225 W. Foster, Box 48
Chicago IL, 60625

or see www.swedishamericanhist.org

Mention the Genealogist when you join or order books





Book Reviews

1943 where he stayed for the rest of his life. In 1961 he married Mary A. Erickson, born in Wisconsin of parents from Dala-Järna (Dala.) She was a school teacher. In Portland Oscar first worked in the shipyard during the war, and afterwards he had his own business as an interior decorator. He and Mary were very much involved in the local Swedish-American community in many positions, Oscar played music for many events, and sang in several choirs.

Emma Nordgren was born in Umeå, Sweden, and her father left for the U.S. when she was very little, but immigrated later with her mother, and was reunited with an almost unknown father. Among other things she tells about how it was to be a Swede during World War I, when there was a very anti-German feeling, and Swedes were also thought to be pro-German and had their share of abuse. When grown up Emma worked as a phone operator, and later became a photographer. Her story about life during the Depression is very interesting. In the photo shop every week they got pictures of houses to develop. When she finally asked about those houses, she was told that it was homes that the bank had taken back, as the owners could not pay their loans.

One of the younger people telling her story is Rhonda Lynne Erlandson, born in 1959 in Portland, of a Swedish-born father and an American mother. Her father, Rolf Axel, had immigrated in 1948 with his parents, but already had many relatives in the area that had done well.

The relatives still in Sweden had difficult times, farming in the northernmost area of Sweden, and were

invited to come to Oregon. So they left, and came to Warren, Ore., where they lived for some years. The son Rolf Axel now had to be the "man of the family" already in his upper teens, as he quickly learnt to manage in English, and helped his parents to find jobs. Rolf Axel married young to an American girl, spent some time in the army, and later worked in a paper mill, where his father also worked. When Rhonda was sixteen, she was invited by her great-aunt to accompany her to Sweden, and it is interesting to read all about her experiences during the summer. She was able to visit the village of Bratten near Lycksele (Vbn), and was even allowed to sleep in the same room where her father had been born.

This book makes for fascinating reading, it tells so much about the conditions in Sweden and America during the early 1900s, and so much about the lively Swedish-American community in Oregon, and especially in Portland. It is to be hoped that the younger descendants will allow those Swedish traditions to be kept alive, even though they are three, four, or five generations distant from their Swedish immigrants.

Elisabeth Thorsell

Heathens into Christians

The Conversion of Scandinavia, by Anders Winroth. (2012). Yale University Press. Available from www.Amazon.com.

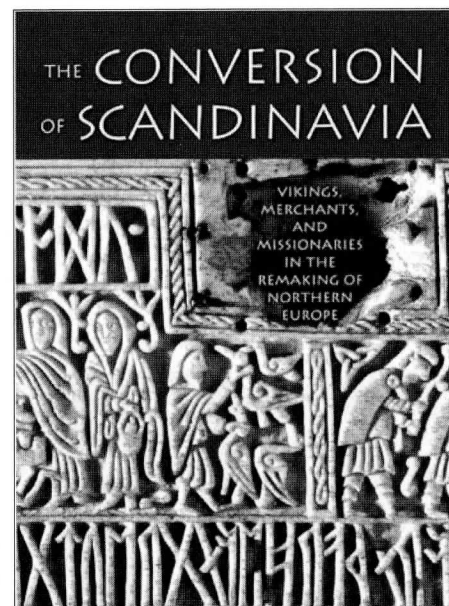
Anders Winroth is a Swedish scholar, now a professor of medieval history at Yale University.

In his new book Winroth argues for a radically new interpretation of the conversion of Scandinavia from paganism to Christianity in the early Middle Ages. Overturning the received narrative of Europe's military and religious conquest and colo-

nization of the region, he contends that rather than acting as passive recipients, Scandinavians converted to Christianity because it was in individual chieftains' political, economic, and cultural interests to do so. Through analysis and historical reconstruction of both archeological and literary sources, and drawing on scholarly work that has been unavailable in English, Winroth opens up new avenues for studying European ascendancy and the expansion of Christianity in the medieval period.

För this book Anders Winroth was awarded the Gustav Ranis International Book Prize in 2013.

(Text cited from a press release from The Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale 23 Aug. 2013)



Family in Dalarna

Back to Venjan, by Mary Johnson Corcoran. 150 pages, ill. Available from Lulu.com. Pdf file is free, book costs \$45.20.

In this book Mary Johanson Corcoran

Book Reviews



tells the story of her great-grandmother (*farmors mor*) Herres Catharina (Karin) Danielsdotter (b. 6 Nov. 1848 in Venjan) and her husband the tailor Johan August Wetterström (b. 29 Nov. 1852 in Forsby [Skar.]) The first years they were married they lived in Stockholm. They left Sweden with their children in 1889 and travelled to Montreal, Canada, from where they went on to Minnesota, and finally settled in Detroit Lakes, Becker Co., MN.

Next comes a vivid description of the celebrations in 2007, when Venjan parish had been its own parish for 400 years; it was ceded in that year from Mora parish. One of the important places Mary and her husband John visited was where the house had stood where great-grandmother Karin was born. The house was gone, but the foundations were still there.

Then follows a detailed family genealogy, starting with the major Daniel Jonsson (1599–1663) and his wife Margareta Danielsdotter Tersera (1611–1689), a niece of the famous rural dean (*prost*) Elof Engelberti Terserus of Leksand. The lines from Daniel and Margareta are followed forwards in time until the family of Herres Karin immigrated in 1889. All along siblings are mentioned, but their lines are not carried forwards, except for the siblings of Herres Karin.

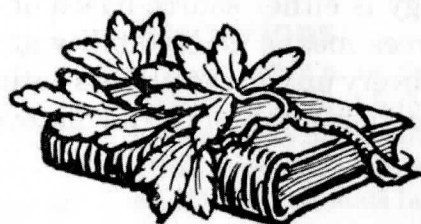
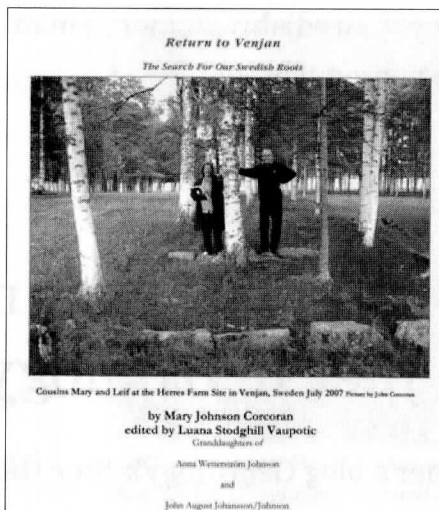
The ancestors of Johan August Wetterström (*farmors far*) are also listed, starting with his grandfather Peter Hallberg (b. 1795 i Skara [Skar.] and his wife Maria Jonsdotter (b. 1799 in Varnhem [Skar.]. Their son Lars (b. 1823 in Skövde [Skar.]) was a soldier with the military name

Sten. He was married twice, first to Cajsa Johansdotter (b. 1829 in Grevbäck (Skar.), died 1871 in Forsby (Skar.)). Married 2nd to Christina Adamsdotter (b. 1830 in Kyrkefalla (Skar.)). Johan August was from the 1st marriage, and started to use the Wetterström name, as did some of his siblings.

Mary's paternal grandfather (*farfar*) Johan August Martin Johansson was born 1882 in Torshult, Kråksmåla parish [Kalm.], and had his roots in that parish. The oldest persons mentioned are his grandparents Johan Ernst Larsson (b. 1810 in Fagerhult (Kalm.) and his wife Stina Lisa Persdotter (b. 1819 in Kråksmåla). Their son Emil's (b. 1852) descendants are followed to this day.

This book is a fascinating read, and has many illustrations in color. What I miss is a graphic ancestral chart, and a name index, but that is just minor points. As a whole I liked also to read about Mary's experiences in modern Sweden.

Elisabeth Thorsell



SAG needs Your help!

We regard the reviews as a very important part of SAG, as the readers are spread all over the U.S., Canada, and Sweden and a lone subscriber even in Australia.

For all of them it is very difficult to keep track of the many interesting books (and movies) that are published with a *Swedish* or *Swedish-American* theme.

We need you to keep your eyes open. And we are extremely pleased if you will write a review and send it to the SAG editor.

Family histories, church histories, local group histories, and lodge histories are among the things we would like to present in SAG. And all in English.

A good book review contains the full title of the book, name of author, year of printing, name of publisher, where it can be bought, and the price of the book.

Send all book reviews to the SAG editor!

Elisabeth Thorsell
SAG editor

The Jonas Bronck Center

This is not a book, but a newsletter from a new organization in Sweden, that will be focusing on doing research about Jonas Jonasson Bronck, from the Sävsjö area in Småland. Jonas Brunck /Bronck is said to have been born there, and at an early age have left for Holland and who became a captain of the Dutch East India Company. In 1639 he left for America and bought the land close to Nieuwe Amsterdam, which is now known as The Bronx.

In 2014 it is 375 years since this happened and there will be celebrations in Sävsjö on 29-31 Aug., and in New York.

See link on p. 30.

Interesting Web Sites

All links tested in
January 2014 and
should work

More information on the SSDI:

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2013/12/new-congressional-bill-proposes-to-limit-access-to-the-death-master-filesocial-security-death-index.html

Obituary for Professor Larry Scott: <http://www.augustana.edu/x58508.xml>

About the Austria disaster: <http://www.wrecksite.eu/wreck.aspx?132285>

More about the Austria disaster: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Austria

Citing Sweden Sources: https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Sweden_Citing_Sources

Free images from Wellcome Library, London: wellcomeimages.org

The People's Dictionary: <http://folkets-lexikon.csc.kth.se/folkets/folkets.en.html>

Old Mill Museum (Lindsborg, KS) Swedish Seminars:

<http://www.mcphersoncountyks.us/DocumentCenter/View/1825>

Carol Elizabeth Skog (writer and promoter of things Swedish): <http://carolelizabetskog.com/>

Olive Tree Genealogy (helpful articles): <http://olivetreegenealogy.blogspot.com/#ixzz2jDgqdk6h>

Gjenvik-Gjönvik archives on immigration: <http://www.gjenvick.com/#axzz2rv4WLMxf>

A blog with stories from Ellis Island: <http://blog.hornblower.com/heartbreakandhope/>

Swedish Genealogy Convention 2014: <http://www.sfd2014.se/en/index.htm>

NYC Parks (Wards Island): <http://www.nycgovparks.org/parks/wardsislandpark/history>

About Castle Garden: http://genealogy.about.com/od/ports/p/castle_garden.htm

James Tanner's Genealogy's Star: <http://networkedblogs.com/Tpdou>

Swedish Roots in Oregon: <http://www.swedishrootsinoregon.org/default.html>

The Jonas Bronck Center: <http://www.jonasbronck.se/>

Genealogy without documentation is just mythology!

A quotation from James Tanner's blog *Genealogy's Star* (link above) on 2 Feb. 2014:

"From my standpoint genealogy is either source-based or it is rumor-based. There is no compromise here. A lack of sources means no credibility at all with me. Every unsourced name, every unsourced date, and every unsourced place is entirely suspect. Every fact, sourced or otherwise, is also entirely open to refutation by the discovery of further evidence."

Genealogical Queries

Genealogical queries from subscribers to *Swedish American Genealogist* will be listed here free of charge on a "space available" basis. The editor reserves the right to edit these queries to conform to a general format. The inquirer is responsible for the contents of the query.

We would like to hear about your success if you receive useful information as a result of placing a query in this publication. Please send us your feedback, and we will endeavor to report your new discoveries in this section of the journal.

Chicago Höganäs Society

Many Swedes from the town of Höganäs in Skåne immigrated for years to Worcester, MA, and a special Höganäs Society was formed. This society is well-known and well-documented. But it was called the Höganäs Society #2, which indicates that there was another Höganäs Society somewhere. It was presumably based in Chicago, as Höganäs Society #1 (Hoganas Society), but there is no documentation or knowledge of this society.

Any and all information most welcome!

Robert P. Willey, <hogworc@comcast.net>

or the SAG editor <sag@etgenealogy.se>

1316

Towels

I am a Swedish weaver and I have for years wondered about the towels that the Swedish immigrants brought with them to America. Maybe there are old, darned towels from the Old Country still in existence in someone's attic?

I would so much like to weave new ones similar to the old ones. It would be so marvelous to be able, in 2014, to honor all the women who under difficult circumstances crossed the sea, by making new textiles like the ones they took with them. Textiles that maybe were memories from their mothers, smells that reminded them of their home in Sweden, etc.

I weave in flax and cotton, just as they did at the time of the immigration.

I look forward to hearing from many of you!

Viveca Andersson, <vivan55@hotmail.com>

Viveca's blog can be found at <<http://www.varpochsolv.blogspot.se/>>

1317

DEAR ANCESTOR

Your tombstone stands among the rest;
Neglected and alone.

The name and date are chiseled out
On polished, marbled stone.

It reaches out to all who care

It is too late to mourn.

You did not know that I exist

You died and I was born.

Yet each of us are cells of you

In flesh, in blood, in bone.

Our blood contracts and beats a pulse
Entirely not our own.

Dear Ancestor, the place you filled
One hundred years ago

Spreads out among the ones you left

Who would have loved you so.

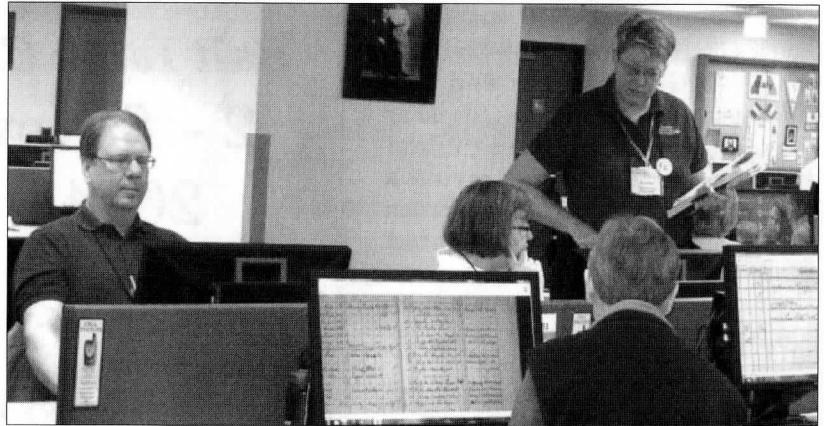
I wonder if you lived and loved,

I wonder if you knew

That someday I would find this spot,

And come to visit you.

(By Walter Butler Palmer 1906 (On Facebook 30 Jan. 2014 by Wini Caudell).



SAG staff in the Family History Library: Mike Swanson and Jill Seaholm, Nov. 2013. (Photo: E. Thorsell).

Corrections:

In SAG 2013/3 p. 16, first paragraph, it should be changed to "The family lived at Kalvträsk," not Villvattnet, according to the author, Anton Rosendahl. My mistake, Anton!

The person who sent in the Handwriting example #36 in SAG 2013/3 is named Mats Lundell, not Lundel. Sorry for that, Mats!

Signed the sad SAG editor!

The Last Page

Dear friends,

Time passes quickly, and already we look forward to the New Year, and that it will bring mostly good things.

Weatherwise here in Sweden it has been different from last year, when we had snow from the middle of December until the middle of March, so it has not been the case yet. We have heard and read about the very cold and snowy weather in the Midwest and New England, and hope it will soon become and stay more moderate.

Work has been going on as usual, with SAG and other things. I recently heard from an old client, who had not been in touch since the 1980s, which was rather fun, and he gave me a new problem to untangle.

Sometimes I am also contacted by

lawyers or genealogists to find living relatives to somebody of Swedish origins who has died in the U.S. and had no relatives there. They need help to find the heirs in Sweden.

My latest case was about a woman, who immigrated in 1923, and soon stopped writing home. Maybe she did not want to tell her family that she had had a daughter out of wedlock. Anyway, now the daughter has died, and it was necessary to locate the relatives in Sweden. They were all in Halland and were numerous.

All of them have been found, with the help of the Population CDs, the *Landsarkiven*, who sent me copies of probates, and even our Tax Authorities (*Skatteverket*), that gave me recent information.

Please, read my plea for help with book reviews on p. 29. You know much more about books of interest to other SAG readers than what I can find in Sweden!

During the fall we will see a new series of Swedish *Who Do You Think You are?* The participants have not yet been disclosed, but we hope they will have interesting stories to tell. Personally I usually prefer the British series, which we have bought on DVDs. The backgrounds of the people are more diverse, India, Jamaica, Ireland, etc., and more interesting.

In a couple of months we will have the longer days, flowers, and green, green grass, things we are all looking forward to.

Till next time!

Elisabeth Thorsell

Help us promote the SAG journal!

Do you belong to a Swedish genealogy or other Swedish interest group? Even a group that only sometimes focuses on Sweden? We are happy to supply SAG back issues and subscription brochures for you to use as handouts. If you will have a raffle or drawing, we can even provide a certificate for a 1-year subscription to SAG for you to give away. Contact Jill Seaholm at

<jillseaholm@augustana.edu>, or 309.794.7204. Thank you!



SAG Workshop Salt Lake City 2 – 9 Nov. 2014 !



We look forward to seeing old and new friends in our happy group of researchers !

The SAG Workshop is the highlight of the year – a fun learning experience and a chance to do your Swedish genealogy with hands-on help from experienced Swedish and American genealogists.

The social side includes both welcome and farewell receptions, a buffet dinner & entertainment.

Contact *Jill Seaholm* at 309-794-7204, or e-mail: <sag@augustana.edu>.

Abbreviations

Table 1. Abbreviations for Swedish provinces (*landskap*) used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (as of March 2000) and *Sveriges Släktforskarförbund* (the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies, Stockholm [SSF]).

Landskap (<i>Province</i>)	SAG & SSF <i>Abbr.</i>	Landskap (<i>Province</i>)	SAG & SSF <i>Abbr.</i>
Blekinge	Blek.	Närke	Närk.
Bohuslän	Bohu.	Skåne	Skån.
Dalarna	Dala.	Småland	Smål.
Dalsland	Dals.	Södermanland	Södm.
Gotland	Gotl.	Uppland	Uppl.
Gästrikland	Gäst.	Värmland	Värm.
Halland	Hall.	Västerbotten	Väbo.
Hälsingland	Häls.	Västergötland	Vägö.
Härjedalen	Härj.	Västmanland	Väsm.
Jämtland	Jämt.	Ångermanland	Ånge.
Lappland	Lapp.	Öland	Öland
Medelpad	Mede.	Östergötland	Östg.
Norrbottn	Nobo.		

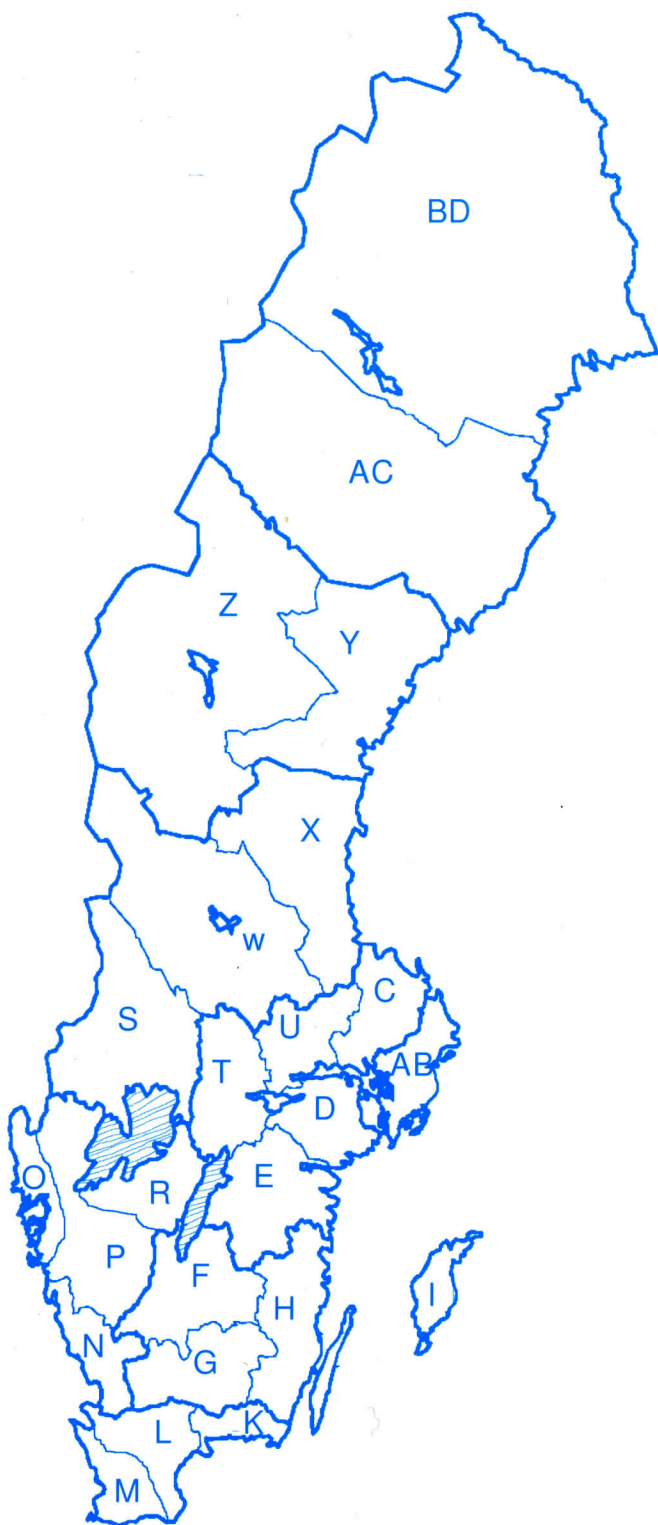
Table 2. Abbreviations and codes for Swedish counties (*län*) formerly used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (1981-1999) and currently used by *Statistiska centralbyrån* (SCB) (the Central Bureau of Statistics, Stockholm).

Län (<i>County</i>)	SAG <i>Abbr.</i>	SCB <i>Abbr.</i>	SCB <i>Code</i>	Län (<i>County</i>)	SAG <i>Abbr.</i>	SCB <i>Abbr.</i>	SCB <i>Code</i>
Blekinge	Blek.	Blek.	K	Stockholm	Stock.	Sthm.	AB
Dalarna ^a		Dlrn.	W	Södermanland	Söd.	Södm.	D
Gotland	Gotl.	Gotl.	I	Uppsala	Upps.	Upps.	C
Gävleborg	Gävl.	Gävl.	X	Värmland	Värm.	Vrml.	S
Halland	Hall.	Hall.	N	Västerbotten	Vbn.	Vbtn.	AC
Jämtland	Jämt.	Jmtl.	Z	Västernorrland	Vn.	Vnrl.	Y
Jönköping	Jön.	Jkpg.	F	Västmanland	Väst.	Vstm.	U
Kalmar	Kalm.	Kalm.	H	Västra Götaland ^c		Vgöt.	O
Kronoberg	Kron.	Kron.	G	Örebro	Öre.	Öreb.	T
Norrbottn	Norr.	Nbtn.	BD	Östergötland	Ög.	Östg.	E
Skåne ^b		Skån.	M				

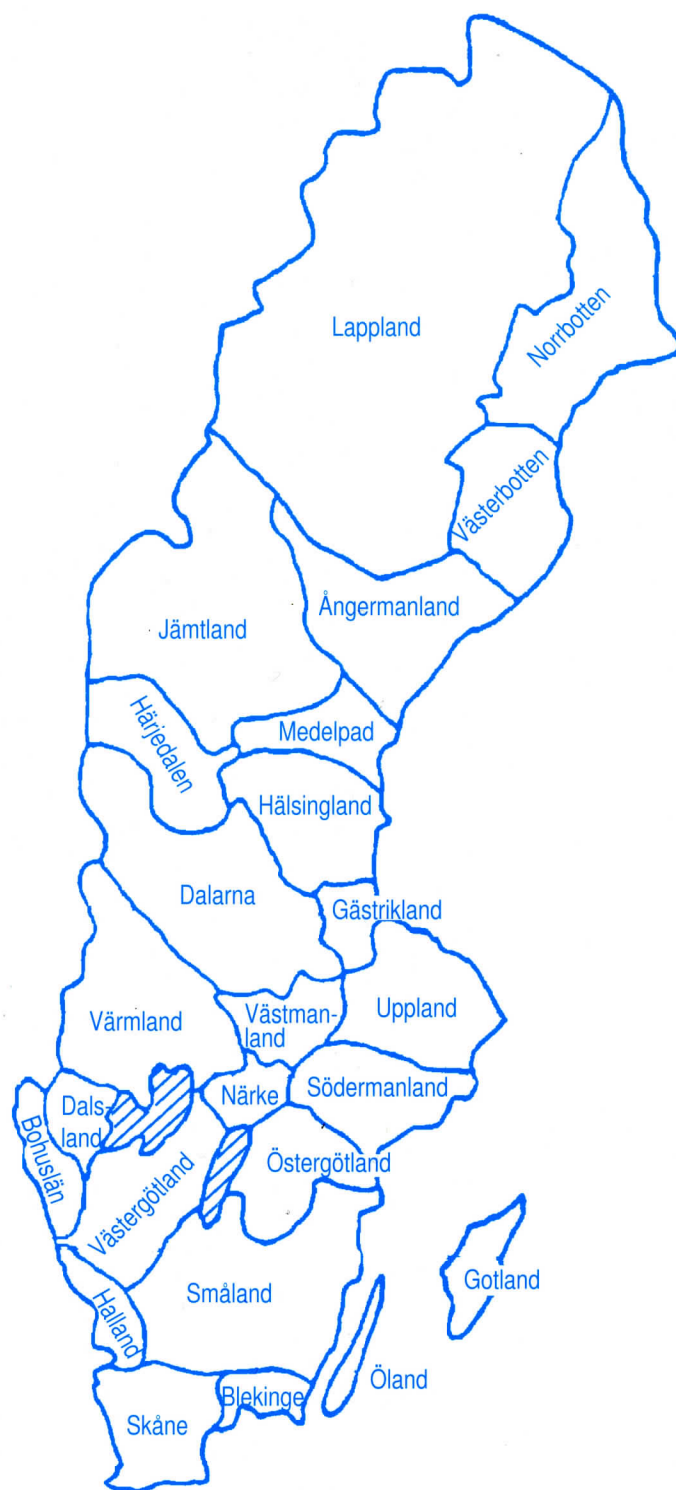
a formerly Kopparberg (Kopp.; W) *län*.

b includes the former counties (*län*) of Malmöhus (Malm.; M) and Kristianstad (Krist.; L).

c includes the former counties (*län*) of Göteborg and Bohus (Göt.; O), Skaraborg (Skar.; R), and Älvsborg (Älvs.; P).



The counties (*län*) as they were before 1991.



The provinces (*landskap*).